

謙虚な
サークル著
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Kouritsu-Chu Madoushi

効率厨魔導師、 第二の人生で 魔導を極める

3



RE:MASTER MAGIC

The Mage Will Master Magic Efficiently In His Second Life

- Volume 3 -

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CHAPTER 70

CULTURE

“Ooh? If it isn’t the kids from the other day”

Walking along the road we happened to cross by the Magic Associations dispatch from before, I believe his name was Grain. Grain turns his gaze towards us, his smile distorting across his face as he pushed himself up from against the wall. We took a slight step back as Grain approached us as he began to build up magic power, but there’s no reason to be scared if it’s just him.

“Hahaha! You wimpy kids don’t have to be so scared, I’m not going to do anything”

“A Representative of the magic association can only attack those that are aggressive against the organization right?”

When saying so, Grains eyebrow twitches up in surprise.

“Hoo, you seem quite knowledgeable about the Association”

“Well that is the rule. Did you summon those familiars over there?”

While Grain and I were speaking, it seems Grains familiars begin to fight the Mist Wraiths. Looking carefully as the large amount of Wraith Masters were enclosed in a Blue Wall, Mist wraiths began to be summoned over and over, successively being defeated each time.

It’s not wonder that the second level of this dungeon doesn’t have many monsters left. he’s basically trapping all the monsters in one spot and slaughtering them all for his own gain.

Moreover, abusing the fact that these wraiths would summon servants, this isn’t something a representative that is supposed to enforce the laws of the magic association should do.

“Ah that’s right, a representative should be stricter yes, while it’s good to have obtained that power, the rules about fighting monsters seems troublesome. That’s

why I trained using these familiars”

I see, it's true that using a summoned servant can be considered indirect action making them convenient for a dispatched mage.

Or more like, his familiar's are considerably strong.

Although it was two versus one, the Mist Wraiths were instantly defeated.

I wonder if the day will come when Ain can fight like this as well. Looking over to Ain, she was fascinated by the magic being used by the two female familiars, her line of sight glued to them.

“Oh? Do you also have a Familiar? Ah well...It doesn't even look like its strong at all oi!”

Everyone seems to be finding his blunt attitude unpleasant, but Grain continues provoking us without care.

“the familiars' power is effected by the quality of magic of the summoner. Summoning such a small thing, Isn't it irresponsible to expose such a thing?”

“....You're going too far....!” (Claude Speaking)

Claude who had heard enough began to lash out, but was held back by my right hand.

“Zeph-kun...”

“...That's true isn't it, it's fine we will go, But I must say, that your hunting manners aren't very responsible. Even you should know about your responsibility as a representative of the magic association. I think you should take care of your own situation before commenting on others”

While disregarding the twitching of Grains eyebrows I lead our party of three back to the road.

“Wait”

Hearing an audible voice from behind I turn around, down the road...I could see Grain feigning a bitter smile. It seems like there's little resistance to letting us go. However,

since a representative is around enforcing the rules I may not be able to make any moves.

“Is there anything else you want?”

“...Not particularly? I simply thought that I should remember your face”

“Remember it well. My name as well. It’s Zeph Einstein”

“Aa I’ll remember it Zeph”

Grain declares so while glaring back at me with eyes full of murderous intent.

With this he should be focused on coming after me instead of aiming for everybody else.

This good-for-nothing fate of mine, I have to stop exposing everyone dangerous situations after all.

“L... Let’s go Zeph!”

“....Hah. Be careful when you go hunting from now on”

After saying those menacing words, Grain leaned his body back against the wall he turned his gaze back to watching his familiars fight.

“What was that guy’s problem!” (Milly)

“There was no reason for him to say such things...” (Claude)

“He’s the worst!” (Lydia)

All three of them seem to be quite angry with him.

“Those guys...are kinda scary...” (Ain Speaking)

Ain was probably referring to Grain and his two familiars. Certainly were not able to talk like Ain, they made quite the scary faces while in combat...will Ain make a similar face in battle, I wonder if there is something that would cause Ain to become like that.

“Certainly there’s something wrong with his character!”

Lydia is still mad after the encounter. Ain was being bullied after all; it seems she’s still considerably mad. Grain mentioned that the power of the summoned servant depended on the ability and control of the summoner didn’t he.

I’ve learned various things in that conversation with him. I also used the scout scope on Grains familiars, both of his familiars were level 50, at that level would Ain also be able to instantly defeat the mist wraiths, Grains magic power also looks to be stronger than Azalea.

Thinking of comparing Azalea and Grains magical power, to that extent how many types of magic can they use?

I think a representative magician would likely seek more power anyways. Well at least I now understand you can use two familiars at once, that’s some good information at least.

“Aah enough! How irritating!”

Leaving Wanaruta city ruins, we returned to the town of Beruta, although Lydia’s irritation with the previous situation has yet to settle down.

“...Relax Lydia. There’s no reason to worry about it now”

“How can I relax!? He made fun of Ain-chan!”

As she says this she held my head and pulled on it really hard.

It hurts, it hurts! If you keep doing that my head will come off, you know?!

“T...That reminds me that peculiar magic you learned yesterday was amazing! Your level went up instantly”

Claude reads the atmosphere and changes the topic.

“Growth was it? Yeah that was amazing. I went up two levels as well♪”

Even though my level went up just yesterday, I feel like I gained another level today. We used to take three or four days to obtain one level but now we are getting one in a

day, isn't this nearly five times as much experience from before? What fearsome growth.

"Eh is that so? My level didn't go up at all..."

That's impossible. Lydia is the lowest leveled of our group. If everybody is leveling up Lydia would definitely have gone up as well.

Using the scout scope on Lydia, the level of her Growth Skill was still at level 1. Hmm, level 1? ...Can't be.

Using the scout scope on everyone else, Growth's skill level of Milly is 92, Claude is 22 and I have level 75 etched in.

Will the growth rate change depending on the level of the skill? Which reminds me when I felt for Lydia's magic line, she was almost like an ordinary person.

"...Perhaps, Growth only has an effect on people with magic power"

"Ehh!? No way...Seriously?"

"Looking through the scout scope, the level of Growth of Lydia is extremely low compared to us. Probably this I think is influencing the speed of growth"

"Acha~ is that so~..."

As opposed to the light tone from earlier, there was a big shock as she makes a bitter smile.

Looking around to everyone, we exchanged quick glances unable to call out or think of something to say, in that situation there was nothing but silence.

Unable to stand the situation any longer, Lydia breaks the silence.

"...if I drag you guys down, you won't abandon me right?"

"Obviously!"

Lydia trembles from hearing my proclamation, staring at me with eyes open wide.

"Don't even joke about that kind of thing. Thinking of yourself as a burden, there's no way we could think like that."

Everyone else follows up after my words.

"That's right! Or more like, Lydia-san is way stronger than me!" (Claude Speaking)

"uh-huh, that's right! Lydia is much stronger than Claude!" (Milly Speaking)

"...Hey, Milly-san. Even though you agree that still hurts you know" (Claude)

"ehehe...Sorry, Claude" (Milly)

Lydia's eyes begin to tear up as she watches the comedic duo of Milly and Claude.

"...Enough already, everyone's acting so cheeky...I'm supposed to be your senior you know"

Saying so, Lydia began to wipe away her tears.



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CHAPTER 71

AT MY OWN PACE

Late at night, I came to the Wanaruta City ruins alone.

When I summoned Ain the other day, she was actually able to maintain being summoned for over one hour, and so I thought that it might actually be possible for me to go out hunting alone.

Just as a precaution though, I plan on hunting near the entrance of the dungeon.

When I got up in the morning and used scout scope on myself, I confirmed that the letters on Summon Servant changed from grey to white.

When I first used Summon Servant, it would normally be impossible to use it again before a full day had passed, but now that the ability increased in level, it seems that the cool down of the ability has also decreased.

When I chanted the Summon Servant Spell, Ain came out from within the light.

“Granpa, did you call me~?”

“Ahh, Do you think you can accompany me for a little while?”

“Yeah!”

I brought Ain along a stroll in the surrounding of the city ruins, and I started to cast Blue Wave to scan and search for any nearby enemies.

This spell didn't use much magical energy, and if a Mist Wraith was using the Black Curtain ability in order to hide itself, it would be discovered by the Blue Wave.

Furthermore, as long as I had the Safe Protection blessing on me, I shouldn't be fatally injured even if they manage to sneak up on me.

I advanced forwards while meditating.

When I hunted in such a high level hunting ground all by myself, there is definitely this feeling of tension in the air.

I was enjoying the electric feeling of tension in the air as I continued to increase my concentration.

“Granpa, Food~”

With the sound of her voice, my concentration was broken and I slipped down.

Ain was on top of my head lying on her stomach, while kicking her foot against my head.

“I understand, I got it.....”

“Yayyy~”

I reached inside my pocket and grabbed a single high-quality medium in order to give to Ain, whilst watching my surroundings again.

Ain was nibbling on the high-level medium, and made crunching sounds. It was at this point in time that I heard a small noise.

When I turned my head towards the sound, to see what was there, I saw the air shimmering and a shadow approach from the building.

The Black Curtain spell that Mist Wraith's uses works by hiding itself in a refraction of the air by using clothes created by wind magic.

If they didn't move, you wouldn't be able to detect them at all, but if they moved around, and you concentrated around the area, you could see this shimmering whenever they drifted.

“Today I want to try a combination of Spirit Magic”

I confirmed the figure of the approaching Mist Wraith, and then I chanted out Time Square.

I simultaneously casted Black Crash and White Crash at the same time, and the moment that I deactivated the time freeze, the two black and white maelstrom of

magic penetrated through the Mist Wraith.

Combining the large area of effect of Spirit type Magic and the speed and velocity of Sky type magic, the Crashing of spells was without a doubt very easy to land..... However even though the Mist Wraith was pierced by the whirlpool of energy, the Mist Wraith didn't seem to be taking any damage.

"Hmm, it would seem that the affinity of this combined spell is not good against the Mist Wraith"

Although I had my expectations on the matter, it would seem that other than Red type Magic, the Spirit type Magic is not really efficient if it's combined with the other types.

I did try it before, and it feels like Spirit Magic was really effective against the undead type monsters, but other than that, it isn't really cut out to be combined with other spells. Aside from the Red Type Magic, the other types of magic weren't really that effective towards the undead to begin with, and even if I combined the spells together, it may actually end up reducing the effectiveness of Spirit Magic.

The Black Curtain spell cancels out when it comes into contact with my Blue Wave and while dodging it's attacks, I casted two White Crashes on top of each other and I destroyed the Mist Wraith.

After my training with Lydia, I seriously increased my ability to evade attacks. If my opponent is merely at this level of skill, it is really easy for me to evade their attacks.

That reminds me, when Grain was fighting against the monsters he used his two familiars to fight for him right?

I remember the kind of weapons that those two familiars were holding.

It was most definitely top quality goods that was sold in a high-quality weapon shop from the capital city.

I heard that as part of the prestigious Dispatch Magicians, they have this rule that unless they were the ones that were first attacked, they are not allowed to start the fight.

For someone like Grain, this kind of restriction becomes a huge bother I suppose, and in order to have a loophole against such a troublesome set of rules and procedures, it

would be easier if their familiars could take action for them.

If someone becomes as strong as one of the Dispatched Magicians, but is unable to wield their powers in freedom, I think that it is kind of pointless.

“Hey, Ain”

“I’m sleepy.....”

As soon as she said this, Ain disappeared along with a flicker of light.

Yesterday she was able to last for more than an hour, why is it like this today?

Incidentally, I remember that yesterday, Ain was even able to say ‘Bye bye’ before she disappeared.

The first time I ever summoned her, and also this time around, this is the second time she’s said that she was ‘sleepy’ and abruptly disappeared.

Don’t tell me that because it was night time, she couldn’t be summoned for a long duration?

I guess I will need to try this theory out when morning comes?

After this, I continued to hunt the Mist Wraith’s alone, but because I didn’t use any Spirit Magic, and only used Green Crash to attack the Wraiths, I needed to cast it more often and it made me become really tired.

If one day Ain was able to fight alongside me like Grain’s familiars, this would be a huge burden taken off my shoulders.

Well I can’t really ask too much of her right now.

The morning sun was beginning to climb so I left Wanaruta City Ruins and returned back to Beruta Town.

By the time I returned to town, the sun had already risen, and the people of the town had already begun their daily activities.

When I confirmed the loot I obtained from today’s hunt, I realized that I still had the

Growth Scroll in my bag. Come to think of it, I'm supposed to hand this over to Claire-sensei....

If I'm not mistaken, I believe that sensei's house is in the residential area at the middle of town.

I have been there once before together with Milly.

Passing through the downtown and into the corner of the residential area, her house was a small house with a red roof.

This must be Claire sensei's house. I wonder if Azalea's house is also nearby? It would be troublesome if I was seen with the scroll, so I better move quickly.

Thinking these thoughts, I knocked on the door, and suddenly the door opened up with a clank and Claire sensei appeared.

"Hyaah!?"

She opened the same time as I was about to knock, and Claire sensei was clearly shocked by my visit.

It's understandable. If you opened your door and someone just happened to be standing there, anyone would get shocked.

"Claire Sensei.....!" (*TL: Sensei = teacher*)

"I was so startled~ Ahh?Isn't it Zeph-kun! It's been so long~!"

She focused her glasses and after looking closely at my face, Claire sensei grabbed my head and embraced me into her chest.

This is agonizing! I tried to shake off Claire sensei's hands and get myself out of her breasts but she doesn't seem to realize that I was trying to escape.

As usual she really takes things at her own pace.

Geez, whenever I am around her everything seems so out of control.

"Did you come to visit me after coming into the city?"

That reminds me, I don't think I've ever mentioned that I also started living in this town.

Well I think it would become a troublesome thing if I told her, so it may be better if I just kept quiet?

"No, I'm only going to return something that was dropped by somebody, and after that I plan to leave straight away"

"Oh is that so~? You're such a good boy aren't you, returning lost things to others"

Saying that, Claire sensei began to caress my head.

While my head was getting rubbed I quickly put my hands into my bag and pulled out the Growth Scroll to give to Claire Sensei.

"What is this?"

"Azelea.....Just a while ago, I actually met with Claire sensei's little sister, and I think that she was looking for this Growth Scroll. I want you to pass it on to her"

"Hee~ You met with Azelia? How is she? What did you guys talk about?"

She was nudging me with her elbow as she urged me to speak. She's really spurring on a crime here.

"Nothing much happened between us, I would like it if you didn't talk in such an insinuating way"

"Again again~ Even though there is a basis for it~"

If I wanted to start a debate with her, I don't think it would ever end.

I think it's time for me to escape.

"Claire sensei, were you about to go to school?"

"Kyaah, you're right! I'm so sorry Zeph-kun, please come over and visit me together with Milly next time, okay!"

Claire sensei started to run as she exchanged greetings with the people she came across.

Even here, it seems that a lot of people adore her.

“Now then.....”

I was just talking to myself as I was getting ready to return to the inn, when I heard a voice inside of my head.

(Ah Zeph, can you hear me? It's me)

This voice is, Silverie isn't it? (*Translator Note: I'm going to change 'Seruberie' into 'Silverie' from now on*)

(Silverie, What's wrong?)

(Ahh, I want you to hunt a Sunny Raven for me, do you think you can do it? I have some important matter that I need to attend today)

Sun Ray Mountain's Boss monster, Sunny Raven.

This was the same boss that Silverie snatched away from us, when Claude and I were on the verge of defeating it.

Last time around we really cut it close, but if I brought four people along this time, I think it would be much easier.

When I was thinking about my options, Silverie continued talking.

(Then, I'll see you later. If you have some problem, please tell me)

After hearing her voice, I heard a sound of the telepathic communication being broken off.

Hey wait a minute, you haven't even heard my answer yet!

(Silverie? Oi Silverie?!)

No matter what I said after that, she didn't answer me.

It was already unexpected for her to take the initiative to come and talk to me telepathically, but I didn't expect that she would cut the connection before I even had the chance to answer.

Geez, she's doing things at her own pace.

Well I guess if we get into a pinch, we can just run away right?

For the time being, shall I just invite everyone to see if they are keen?

Leaving Clare-sensei's house, I found Milly and Claude enjoying a meal back at the hotel.

A large pile of food lay between them.

"Welcome back, Zeph-kun"

"If you don't hurry it's going to be all gone you know"

"Of course, I intend to eat my fill, but after we finishing eating, what do you guys think about going to the Sun Ray Mountains in order to hunt down a Sunny Raven?"

Milly and Claude both stopped eating and turned their heads towards me upon my declaration. Wiping her mouth with a tablecloth, Milly responds to my suggestion.

"I don't really mind it..... but you should really give us an earlier heads up"

"The Sun Ray Mountains is pretty far~ If we depart now, we will probably get their by noon"

As a matter of fact, I also agree with their opinions na, Silverie.

"In the first place, how can we confirm that the boss will spawn?"

"An acquaintance told me about it"

When I said these words, both Milly and Claude's ears pricked up.

"Is it a.... Girl?"

“It is...”

How did they know it was a girl I wonder?

When I answered their question, the two girls breathed out a sigh.

“Ah whatever, I guess I will go”

“I also don’t mind it”

“Is that so? Well I already told Lydia about this before I came back to the inn. She said she was going to make us a lunch bento so she’s going to be a little late, I think it will be good if we depart after around 1 hour”

The remaining three pieces of bread on the table were quickly stuffed inside the mouths of Milly and Claude, I decided to make my way to the bath.

Sun Ray Mountain Range, the area is mainly a grassy plain.

Looking out into the grassy plains for the Sun Raven, Lydia produced four sandwiches for us to eat.

A mark left over from Silverie was burnt into the ground, the Sun Raven will probably revive around there.

While thinking about such things I stuff my mouth with a large bite from the sandwich Lydia made.

Between the two slices of bread are ample amounts of bird meat and vegetables, If I didn’t eat this carefully, it would start to spill out of my mouth and drop into the ground.

Anyway there is clearly more meat than bread.

“Delicious!” (Milly Speaking)

“E..eating this is a bit, difficult” (Claude Speaking)

“If you open your mouth wide, it won’t spill out” (Lydia Speaking: If you open your mouth wide it won’t spill out)

“...Don’t speak with your mouth full” (Zeph Speaking)

Anyhow immediately after we finished eating, I decided to use Summon Servant during the break.

“Claude”

“Waah!?”

As soon as Ain had shown up she jumps into Claude’s chest and buries her body into it.

“hehe it seems she has taking a liking to me huh?”

“I’m so jealous~ Claude~”

“Ain-Chan, Do you want a bite~?”

Did she make that portion specifically for her? Lydia holds out a small sandwich in front of Ain, but Ain shakes her head back and forth refusing it.

“My bad Lydia, Ain will only eat this”

“Muu... What if I place the high-quality medium in between the sandwich...”

“No, I don’t think the bread is the deciding factor.”

While giving the high level medium for Ain to eat I check her using the Scout Scope, compared to the Summon Servant level of 7, Ain’s level is still only 3.

Grain must have used is familiars quite a bit, a Familiars power will grow as it defeats demons. However right now I haven’t used Ain in any battles. Most likely she can also grow stronger from eating the high quality mediums.

I can bring her up doing that to some extent, but raising her abilities in combat might be more efficient. That is the way that Grain does it. The revival time of Sun Raven is approaching while I was lost in thought.

“It’s about time, I will go with Lydia, and Claude should pair up with Milly, if things ever get too dangerous, don’t hesitate to teleport out of the area. The plan is just like

we discussed on our way here”

“Ok♪”

“Understood”

“Yeah! Let’s do it!”

While applying Safe Protection on Lydia I can hear it cackle slightly as she slaps her face, Ain is still sitting in Claude’s chest, I try to pull her out by the wings but she moves too dexterously.

“Hey Ain! You need to come here!”

“H...Hey! Ain-chan! It’s not good if you do not return to Zeph-kun!”

“Don’t wanna! I like being with Claude!”

Umm she’s completely attached to Claude.

Well right now there is no real merit even if Ain is with me, besides something interesting could be revealed if I leave it to Claude.

“Well it’s fine. Claude, Take care of Ain”

“Understood. ...Obediently listen to me okay, Ain-chan”

“Ok~”

“Honestly...I’m counting on you Claude”

“Yes, I’ll take full responsibility for Ain-chan!”

Come to think of it Claude’s Screen Point skill makes her the safest spot for Ain to be in right?

Ain waves her hand as she sits on Claude’s chest getting her head pat, everyone begins to cast strengthening magic putting us at about half left.

“Milly will lead. I will go in as soon as my magic recovers”

“Got it!”

“Then according to plan”

Teleporting to the grassy plain Milly and Claude's the both of them were very vigilant of their surroundings. There's a good atmosphere going. If it goes well, we may even be able to beat it with just those two.

“Zeph-chi”

“What's up?”

Lydia addresses me in a serious manner.

“You usually pair up with either Claude or Milly”

“Is that so?”

“I can tell from experience, that whenever you choose to partner with somebody.... It's because they are lagging behind, and today you've chosen me”

“Such a thing is....”

Turning behind me, I can see a sadness in Lydia. It was an expression that she doesn't usually show on her face.

Considering that she was the only one who hasn't made any progress from her Growth Scroll Skill, does she still have complicated feelings about that, I wonder?

“Idiot, do you really think that I would make a selection just based on something like that? I chose you today, because we can fight the most efficiently together”

“But that's why, you had me follow you...”

“The purpose was to beat the enemy efficiently. For that purpose, this time Lydia and I make the best pair to defeat this enemy so no more complaints”

“but...”

It seems Lydia is still puzzled with my conclusion

"Did you bring the new weapon I talked about earlier?"

"The thing you wanted me to bring from this morning? I do but..."

Saying that, she pulled out a giant axe with a blue jewel embedded in it from inside her bag. It is thicker than the broad-axe which she usually used, it was a rustic looking thing. It was my special order and it had splendid workmanship.

"You mean this one? The one that you wanted made? It's certainly strong"

"Ah, This will do"

Lydia still had a question mark floating above her but I gave her a firm slap on the butt.

"Let's go, It's almost time for the Sun Raven to revive"

"...Alright however, where do you think your touching? mouu~"

"Well! You were just in the right position. There wasn't any special meaning to it."

"Yeah, yeah, you were totally being ecchi!"

Despite her words the tension in the air relaxed...Well it served its purpose so it's all good.

I scratched my head while hearing a munch-crunch sound, Lydia notices something and raises her voice.

"I see it! Zeph-kun"

Lydia points out to where she is looking, we could see the Sun Raven reviving right near where Claude is.

Claude also noticed and took Milly behind her.

"We should also head off, Lydia"

"Alright!"

Lydia cheerfully answered back with a smile reverting back to her usual facial

expression. Even though she seems fine, I can tell that she is thinking of various things.

Grabbing Lydia's hand, I cast teleport and departed.

CHAPTER 73

TRIPLE

It was almost at the same time that Lydia and I landed on the grassy plains that Claude was swinging her sword at the Sunny Raven. Milly was standing a little distance away from Claude and the Sunny Raven. And even further back was Lydia and I.

“Daaaah!”

Shouting out towards the Sunny Raven, Claude launched a blow towards the wing of the Raven, it's red wings fluttered as a little bit of its feathers fell off.

Using its large wings, it was flapping and rotating it in order to push Claude away from it, but Claude manages to jump backwards and nimbly dodges it's attacks. The Raven followed up with a Red Barret chasing after Claude, but she was already prepared for its magical attacks and had activated Screen Point in order to nullify it's magic.

Aside from it's magic, the Sunny Raven was actually quite weak, and it was apparent that Claude had the upper hand in these exchanges.

She also had previous experience fighting this Boss monster so this time around the fight was much more stable.

“Blue Gale!”

Milly was also firing off her magic and supporting Claude from the backlines.

Milly is also pretty stable and she's only using Blue Gale to fight.

But didn't I tell her that if she used Blue Type Magic to the Sunny Raven, it would go into Berserk Mode even faster? Geez...

“When it turns into a firebird, Blue type magic is more effective, was it?”

“You are referring to the Berserk Mode, right? When the Sunny Raven enters its berserk mode. it will become vulnerable to Blue type Magic”

“When that time comes, it will be my turn”

“Ahh, Milly will be the one to give the signal”

Milly was using Scout Scope, while fighting the Sunny Raven, and checking its Magical Value.

When it enters Berserk Mode, I will use a Blue Wall, just like the last time we fought a Sunny Raven we will use Blue Wall to restrict it's movements.

Normally it would be quite difficult to stop the movements of a monster with Blue Wall, but I've had a lot of practice with the trash mobs, and right now Claude was taking its attention away from me so I think I can make do somehow.

Even if I don't completely seal its movements, as long as I stop it's movements it should be fine.

Now then, I should start participating in the attack!

“When the Sunny Raven is attacked by magic from afar, it will also retaliate with magical attacks. Please be sure to protect me” (Zeph Speaking)

“Okay~♪ Leave it to me!” (Lydia Speaking)

I chanted Time Square, and within the time suspension, I casted Black Sphere and Green Sphere.

“Gravity Sphere!”

I took aim and cast a black spherical ball right into the body of the Sunny Raven, and it began to mince and graze the body of the Raven.

Even though it was taking my attack, it still glared back at me viciously and launched a red heat ray attack.

Is that a Red Blaster?

“Lydia!”

“Yeah, yeah.....Hup!”

Lydia used the large ax she was holding in her hands to block the heat ray.

The large ax receives a staggering impact that sent sparks off of it, but it was still able to maintain its firm shape.

If this was a normal weapon, taking this powerful Heat Ray would surely cause the weapon to become damaged, however her particular ax was imbued with Blue Type Magic using the Poiseidon's Tears that we farmed previously, due to the blue gem embedded in the Ax, it was actually very tolerant to Red Type Magic.

When the Heat Ray finally stopped, you could see the color of the blade from the ax glow a slight tinge of red, signifying the amount of heat from the attack.

“Ohh~ this thing is amazing. It has magical resistance”

“It’s is enchanted with Blue Magical energy. Therefore, any Red type attacks against it will have little effect. Should we name it Flood Ax?”

“.....Umm, why is Zeph-chi the one giving it a name?”

“I.....I also helped with the creation of the Ax didn’t I?!”

I didn’t expect that she would be so bothered by the minor details....

The Sunny Raven receives an attack from Claude and once again it turns its neck towards the other side.

No matter how cool the Flood Ax sounds, if it continuously receives an attack from the monster, it will without a doubt break into pieces. In order to achieve victory, it is not an exaggeration to say that Claude’s participation in this battle is key.

Screen point is capable of nullifying all magical attacks, and she also has her shield to ward off any physical attacks.

Although she doesn’t really have much time to strike with her sword, that’s where both Milly and I come in to help.

(Milly, we have to make sure to cast Blue Wall, before that guy’s Magical Value goes below 70,000!)

(Yeah, yeah, I know that already!)

I reminded her of our plan through the guild message system.

It is also necessary for me to save up some magical power so that I can use it to support Lydia.

After firing off my second Gravity Sphere, I instantly began to meditate.

I've increased the level of my Black Sphere and Green Sphere to a decent level, at this point in time, I am able to shoot out four of these before I need to start recovering my Magical Energy.

Another counterattack from the Sunny Raven came as it launched a Red Barret towards me, but Lydia was able to knock it away with her Flood Ax.

Umu, being able to knock that kind of attack away, as expected from Lydia.

Spark's were scattering about and Lydia's axe glowed red as she dropped it to the ground.

"Achichii (Hot hot hot), maybe it's better if I roll a cloth around the handle of the Ax.....?"

She was using gloves to cover her hands, but it seems that the handle of the Axe was becoming a little too hot, she was blowing her hands as if trying to get rid of the heat.

After all, it was a homemade weapon, so I suppose that it's natural that it has some minor faults, right?

This is the drawback of making hand made goods...

Claude seems to be able to fight without much trouble though.

Milly also seems to be supporting her relatively well from the back.

Milly fired off her Blue Gale from behind Claude, and Claude was using her body to prevent any counter attacks from reaching Milly.

It's not like I don't trust Milly, but just in case, I think I will check the Sunny Raven with

my Scout Scope as well.

Sunny Raven

Level 77

Magical Value: 172,595/220,580

As expected it's really tough.

Amongst the boss monsters, the Sunny Raven is at the lower mid-stage level. But as long as you could deal with its powerful magical attacks, then as long as you had the time, anyone would be able to defeat it.

By the looks of things, Lydia seems to be totally free... She even has time to do some stretching movements.

Looking at her bouncy boobs which were swaying left and right, totally disturbed my concentration, so I decided to just close my eyes.

The moment I recovered enough magical energy, I would immediately fire off a Gravity Sphere and then Lydia would have the role of defending against any counter attacks.

Claude and Milly were coordinating well and our battle was proceeding quite smoothly.

Or more like Claude is also really tough.

As one would expect she is really busy with the defence, but she doesn't seem to be taking any damage.

I was feeling admiration for the girls and the Sunny Raven was being locked up in this Ice Wall.

It would seem that Milly had already begun to cast Blue Wall.

“It’s your turn Lydia”

“Ohh, is it finally my turn?”

Lydia looked bored as she raised her body, and she breathed out a sigh as she placed the Flood Ax on her shoulder.

I chanted Time Square and casted two Red Gloves simultaneously, in order to reinforce her attacks.

Furthermore, I also buffed her with the spell Black Boots in order to amplify her speed.

Lydia's body was wrapped with magical light.

"Ohh, This is amazing! I'm overflowing with power!"

"That's not the end of it!"

Lydia was hopping up and down, and getting a feel for her strengthened body.

Even now, it seemed like she would dash into battle, and she was barely able to contain herself.

I chanted Time Square again, and casted double Blue Weapon, granting the Flood Ax double Blue type magical properties.

When you simultaneously casted any type of magic with Time Square to double up its effects, it will actually be more powerful than just firing off the same spell twice at the same target.

I came to find this out more accurately after I spent a lot of time in the Wanaruta City Ruins, especially when you attacked a monster's weakness, doubling up on the magic would make it even more effective than usual.

Flood Ax was a weapon that was already enchanted with the Blue Gem, thereby granting it Blue type magical properties.

In other words, isn't this basically the same as me applying Blue type Magic to the same weapon three times in a row?

I don't have concrete proof that this is the case, but there is a merit in trying it out.

The Flood Ax was enchanted with threefold blue type attributes, Lydia was also provided with body reinforcement spells, as she launched herself off the ground.

Like a violent gust of wind that blows through the meadows, Lydia moved so fast that she tore off the grass whenever she ran through the field.

She ran past Milly and jumped over Claude, she was right in front of the Sunny Raven as she used her everything to strike the crown of its head. A crackling sound was coming out of the Sunny Raven's body as it split and a lump of fire came into sight.

The vermillion flame launched towards Lydia with deadly precision.

“Lydia! It’s dangerous!”

“Please step aside Milly-san! A magical attack is coming!”

Both Claude and I have fought the Sunny Raven before, so we were accustomed to the kinds of attacks that it would launch when it went into Berserk Mode.

The Sunny Raven when in berserk mode would indiscriminately launch its fire attacks to any nearby target, so Milly used her shield to take cover and moved backwards.

Lydia on the other hand was able to continue dodging the barrage of flame attacks while continuing to move forward.

Fireballs, Flaming Wind, Explosive Fire, Heat Rays, she was able to dodge all these types of attacks with incredibly efficiency, she passes through the maelstrom of offensive attacks and wields her Flood Ax.

“Toooriyaaaaah!”

Using a single blow she bisected it's flaming wings and sparks flew into the sky.

Its large body was losing balance as it began to stumble, another attack from Lydia tears it's body apart into pieces.

The Sunny Raven is a monster with level 2 Fire attributes, it had an indefinite form, and even if you cut the flames apart, it would soon return to its former structure, however even so, it would still take a considerable amount of damage from these attacks.

To be honest, this power coming from Lydia is something far beyond my expectations.

The Sunny Raven was being chopped up by Lydia as she moved her lithe body.

It was desperately trying to land a single blow on to Lydia, but she merely turned her

face to the side to dodge it with utmost efficiency, a great explosion could be heard in the background where the fireball landed.

Going at this rate, isn't Lydia going to solo kill this boss?!

"What terrifying battle power"

"Y.....you're right....."

I ran up towards Claude and we were both watching over Lydia as she fought.

Sometimes I would make sure with Scout Scope to check the amount of damage she was dealing, and it turns out that each of her strikes did around the same amount of damage as one of my Blue Gale, so if it continues at this rate, the battle will be over in no time.

The Sunny Raven was already in a hopeless situation; it didn't even have time to attack us anymore.

It doesn't even seem to be able to counter attack Lydia.....No wait, that's not it!

"Lydia! Get away from it!"

"Eh?"

Along with Lydia's surprised voice, the Sunny Raven's body was expanding at an extremely fast rate.

(Tsk.....Time Square!!)

I immediately chanted Time Square, and froze time in place.

When the Sunny Raven gets cornered enough, it will collect a high density magic within its own body and explode it outwards! If I am not mistaken, it will cause severe damage to everyone in its surroundings and a large explosion will ensue.

This is a considerably rare move, and it must be good luck that I've never encountered it performing this move.

Anyways, there is no time for me to think.

I must defeat it immediately!

To the side of me, Milly was taking a posture that was ready to shoot out magic.

She was able to react to my words just then, and it seems she's trying her best to fire off an attack.

As expected, Milly is great.

And I knew which Magic Milly was shooting right now.

I myself am using the same Magic and after casting it twice, I released my time stop.

In that instant, a super duper large tornado swallows up the Sunny Raven, and Lydia was able to evade it by a hairbreadth.

A huge tornado rises up towards the heavens scattering away all the clouds as it completely envelops the Sunny Raven, for a long while this gust of devastating wind did not die down.

“.....Triple Blue Gale!”

As I turned my back on the Sunny Raven, the last remaining sparks of its flame which were scattering in the wind, slightly roasted my cheeks.



CHAPTER 74

TREASURED SWORD

When the Sunny Raven disappeared into the empty sky, Lydia came at me with an energetic tackle.

“Zeph-chi!”

She clung to me with all her might while pushing me down. Lydia’s chest was continually pushing into my face, making it hard to breathe.

It’s p...painful.

When I wiggled and struggled, Lydia sat up straight as if she was riding on a horse.

“Once again, I got saved. You’re always taking the spotlight, mouu~” (Lydia Speaking)

“I mean, my attack was also mixed in, you make it sound like it was all his achievement” (Milly Speaking)

When Milly, whose face showed that she didn’t agree, approached closer, Lydia also hugged her.

“Of course I am also thankful to Milly-chan! Thanks~!”

“Wa.....Let go! Pain.....big boobs”

Milly’s face was buried in Lydia’s chest, and in that moment, I somehow managed to escape through Lydia’s legs.

Did I somehow win? Milly and Triple Blue Gale have considerable amount of power.

Both luck and timing need to be good, but because Milly has a set way of doing things, she probably would have had another opportunity to aim.

Still, Blue Gale doesn’t require a cast, but is nevertheless a large scale Magic. Even though the casting time is longer than other middle-class magic, I was able to cast it

twice. Currently Time Square's level is 35, with the time stop duration increasing. Although it is an elementary magic, casting it 3 times is still impossible.

From the sky that has calmed down after the tornado, something shiny fell. A red sword pierced into the ground with a splitting sound. Same as the last time we defeated a Sunny Raven, the treasured sword looked like a Frey Brand. I rushed over and picked it up, and from the edge of the sword that I drew, a bright red light shone. Reflecting off the sun's light, it is as beautiful, quite like the setting sun.

Which reminds me, if I remember correctly, this sword is capable of shooting out magic with a simple chant, isn't it?

To test the Frey Brand, I held it over a nearby rock and cast a Red Ball, the fire ball appeared and directly hit the rock, completely smashing it.

Hm, this is not the full extent my Red Ball's power... Although it is a treasured sword, it is still only a sword, so there's no way this kind of power can come from it.

Is it dependent on the user's own magical power?

"Oh, it's not Frey Brand. It will still sell reasonably high~"

Lydia peered in this direction by chance.

Good timing.

"Lydia, will you try to use this sword?"

"Hm? I guess it's fine"

I handed the Frey Brand to Lydia, and she held it in the overhead position and swung downwards.

Oi Oi, isn't that the wrong way to use a Frey Brand?

In that moment I was thinking, a fire ball came flying out from the sword tip.

"Wha.....!?" (Zeph)

The fire ball hit the ground, and caused a small explosion. Doesn't this mean that it's

not necessary to chant while using the treasured sword? No, wait? Can this be...

"Lydia! Can you give that back for a sec?"

"Sure"

I accepted the Frey Brand from Lydia, and when I shook the sword, a fire ball certainly came out from the sword tip. It seems that you really don't need to use any incantations to cast.

"That's nice~ That looks like fun! Hey, Zeph~ Give to me me as well~" (Milly)

"Later"

Milly placed her hands on my shoulders to coax me, but I kept swinging the Frey Brand while giving the suitable response. Alright, I was able to catch the timing. With this sword swing, I cast Time Square with the timing for when the fire ball will come out.

If my thinking is correct.....

At the moment the sword tip turned red, time stopped and I cast Red Ball twice. When the time stop cancelled, the fire ball released from the sword tip and my Red Ball merged together and became a blazing fire ball.

A big explosion occurred in the far distance in addition to taking away everyone's breath.

If this kind of power can come from the elementary magic Red Ball, then I wonder what will happen if another middle-class magic were to be charged to the sword.

Furthermore, if Milly were to collaborate..... I gulped, my breath taken away, and sweat streamed down my face.

".....Lydia, do you know how to create a weapon charged with magic?"

"Sorry, I don't know . I will look up the answer" (Lydia)

"It's somewhat unfair that only Zeph gets it....." (Milly)

"I also want to try it" (Claude)

This weapon showed me a new potential.

(Zeph, can you hear me?)

Late at night, I was awoken by Silverie's voice. It is telepathic communication that comes from using the crystal ring she gave me. Oi, it's the middle of the night. Calling me in this time of the night is definitely weird.

(.....What time do you think it is?) (Zeph)

(Were you about to sleep?) (Silverie)

(No, I just woke up, but)

(Then, that's fine)

.....Do you really think it becomes fine, just because you say it is?

(I think that you shouldn't really be using telepathic communication so much at night. Although I don't really mind it)

(Relax. I don't have anyone else that I can talk to)

What kind of complicated bluff is this?

From the look of things, it looks like she doesn't have a serious talking partner besides me.

Looks like I discovered a very sad fact.

(.....Well, what is the issue?)

(Did you properly defeat the Sunny Raven?)

(Aah, the time and place is....)

I informed Silverie the time and place, and without any special intonations she answered me back with a 'Is that so?'

(I will contact you again)

(I understand)

Yuuup, it's hard to communicate with Silverie telepathically. Even though under normal circumstances, it is still hard to communicate to the person.

"What!?" (

..... Once again, I completely forgot to tell her that I couldn't get into contact with her with this ring. I just woke up after all. N.... Next time I will surely.....

Well, setting aside my regret, I completely woke up. What should I do today? For now, I cast Scout Scope.

Zeph Einstein

Level 44

[Red] Magic Level 32 Limit Level 62

[Blue] Magic Level 31 Limit Level 87

[Green] Magic Level 33 Limit Level 99

[Sky] Magic Level 32 Limit Level 89

[Soul] Magic Level 34 Limit Level 97

Magical Power Level 2016 / 2026

The increases in level because of Growth, is amazing. I get the feeling that every day one thing increases. I also earned a considerable amount of money, and I might as well try to go to the city sometime soon.

If I'm at the point where I'm able to hunt in the third floor of the Wanaruta City Ruins without problems, then I can set my sights onto that goal. By the way, the second and third floor bosses are the highest class, and with the way we are now, it's impossible to win.

Or perhaps I should say that we still haven't fought with any bosses of the highest class.

There was one time in the past when travelled together with Silverie, but at that time, there were many adventures that were as high ranked and even then, the fights were a struggle.

Which reminds me, Ain's level reached 15 yesterday. It's probably about time that I train her so that she will be able to fight like Grain's summons.

Although if I do call her at this time of the night, it is certain that she will just say 'I'm sleepy' and disappear really quickly.

I will go to Sun Ray Mountain Range today, and see if I can make her fight in the early morning with the Stone Zell that is at the foot of the mountains on the path to return back. It should be easy to fight because that thing doesn't personally go to attack.

However, I wonder how she would fight it.

Thinking about it, I image that Ain would fight by brandishing both fists and swinging them around, and I couldn't help but to burst out laughing.

".....Fu"

Well, if I were to use enhancement magic, I could make it work somehow. There are other ways that I can think of as well. While thinking about it optimistically, I cast Teleport towards the Sun Ray Mountain Range.

CHAPTER 75

RAPIER

“Green Crash!”

I dodged the rock-bird’s rush attack, While it slip pass by me I slashed it with my treasured sword Frey Brand while casting magic.

After slashing it, an intense shock was felt through the rock-bird and it was sent flying. After bouncing on the ground several times, I slashed the twitching rock-bird while casting green crash once more, the shock caused the ground to break and the rock-bird was defeated.

“As expected, it is still impossible eh?”

It’s impossible to overlap my magic while using the Frey Brand.

because of my swordsmanship is unstable, I can’t invoke my spell with the correct timing, besides If I tried to overlap my magic I wouldn’t be able to combine it perfectly. Instead of swinging, I think using this on actual battles is better.

Sword and magic, I wonder if can master it together and also is there any possible chance to master both? Well, I have Time Square anyways I’m not that concerned about it.

But rock-birds sleep at night so searching for rock-birds is difficult. Since its dark I’ve been casting red wave periodically to surprise the rock-birds that are sleeping so that they will come here but how I wish I had been on the other hunting grounds instead of having troubles over here.

Well I also want Ain to fight with the Stone-Zells. While I was thinking about things, the sun began to dawn. I think I should move to the bottom of the hill.

Teleporting until I reached the bottom of the hill, the scenery lightened greatly. While I was walking and looking at the morning sun with a nice timing I found a Stone-Zell that was rolling and tumbling around.

“Summon Servant!”

Within the light, Ain appeared.

“What is it?”

“Can you fight that demon over there?”

After asking Ain to fight, she looked at me with a puzzled face. I already expected this would happen but it really is difficult making her understand these concepts.

“I’m telling you to fight that Stone-Zell”

“Fight.....?”

Ain approached the Stone-Zell and used her palms to hit it.

Fight it.

Not hit it with your palms...

While I’m observing Ain I’m having anxiety over her behavior, the Stone Zell rotated and squashed Ain. Ain was lying on the ground sprawled after being crushed.

“.....Are you ok? Ain”

It seems she has not taken any damage however I still called out to her with a worrisome voice, she stood up dropping mud around her. With her faced dirtied with mud, for the first time I saw her getting mad, I’m slightly moved to tears.

“.....Grrr.. Now I’m mad!”

She sprung onto the Stone-Zell and then she was striking the Stone-Zell with both her fists, while flying around it, this is just like I imagined she would fight, and looking at this made me on the verge of bursting out with laughter.

Must not lose focus. It seems that I can’t calm down with this situation. The Stone-Zell’s is wrapped with a hard rock skin so its tolerance against physical attacks is high. Probably, Ain’s attack didn’t hardly do any damage at all.

“Ain, Can I have a moment?”

“What?”

Ain answered with a mad expression. I wasn't expecting that she has an aggressive personality.

“Come over here”

Ain stopped engaging the Stone-Zell, she flew to me having a dejected face. Just like that, she hurled herself towards me with momentum.

“What is it!?”

“Calm down Ain. If you keep doing it like that you won't be able to defeat it”

“That's not true, Humph!”

No I don't think I'm wrong. Using the scout scope, I saw there was less than 3 damage done on the Stone-Zell.

“Stop being stubborn and use this”

After saying that, I gave her the weapon which Lydia made previously. Like a needle, it's a thin sharp sword called a rapier which specializes in thrusting attacks. It was made specifically for Ain's size.

“Use this and aim at the rock's crevice”

“Oh this is cool~! Thanks, gramps!”

“Don't thank me, thank Lydia”

“Lydia? Who's that?”

She really didn't remember her. Poor Lydia.

“She's the girl who was with us a while ago. That tall girl with a pony tail...”

“Hmm~? I don't know”

As I thought it's hopeless. Should I give them time to let them meet each other? For the time being I'll pass Ain the rapier, it seems that she took a liking to it, she's been shaking and waving the rapier around. I got a sudden bad feeling about this.

"Ain, the rapier is not for swinging that should be used to attack the crevice by piercing it....."

She did not take my advice and used that small thin blade like a sword by slashing the stone-zell.

I thought the rapier would break after Ain slashed it against the Stone-Zell but instead she flew back due to the recoil of the slash.

Ohh, nice one Lydia. Did she predict that this would happen? I caught Ain from rolling and tumbling over with my hand and she was making an astonished face.

"That surprised me~"

While Ain is laughing happily, I'll advise her.

"You should aim at the crevice"

Using Blue wall the Stone-Zell was frozen, stopping its movement. With Ain stabbing that spot, the Stone-Zell started to tremble. No matter how bad the attack was, it is taking small damage.

I casted double casted red gloves of offensive power in time square to Ain, both of Ain's hands was enwrapped with flames.

"Eiiiii! Yahh!"

Together with the yell, the Stone-Zell that I restrained was being stabbed repeatedly by Ain. I wonder if she's having trouble aiming, more than half of the attacks were hitting the rock's surface. It seems that the damage was not large enough, this won't be defeated easily. Since I'm free I used scout scope on the Stone-Zell, I saw that the damage done was around 10 percent per attack.

The Stone-Zell's movements are becoming sluggish While watching impatiently, Ain attacked countless times until the Stone-Zell was defeated. It seems she has a lot of trouble defeating it. While yawning, I used scout scope on Ain and found that she

raised her level by 1. It's pretty good timing that the level rose up.

It has been proven that the experience value increases if a high-level medium is given.

“Gramps, Food~”

“Yes wait for a bit”

I gave the pleading Ain a high class medium and she ate it giving crunchy and appetizing sound. What a good eating manner as usual. Once more I used the scout scope and I saw Ain’s level went up. It would seem that letting her defeat the demons gives her far better experience.

After defeating several more Stone-Zells, because breakfast time was nearly there I let Ain go home and I went back to the town.

CHAPTER 76

DARK WRAITH, PART 1

Wanaruta City Ruins: Second Layer.

Having come here multiple times, the scenery still looks very familiar, as there still aren't many enemies around. That bastard Grain has been collecting demons for a while now. I can't help but wonder how long it took for him to raise his familiar's levels.

Because of that Grain's excessive collection, we are stretched out when hunting here, not that I mind too much about that.

"Let's do it, Zeph!"

"Yeah"

Milly began to chant Blue Gale, and I, using Time Square, matched her invocation and began to double cast it.

In a single hit the three tornadoes surrounded and caught the Wraith Master, destroying the surrounding Mist Wraiths as well.

"That technique really is amazing"

"It feels like you two could just do this by yourselves..."

"T-That's not true at all!"

Contrary to what she's saying Milly actually seems quite happy. The success rate of using combination magic's with Milly was still very low. Right now, success only came around 10% of the time.

Attacking using a triple incantation on my own timing with my Treasured Sword was much easier than combining my attacks with Milly. Even though I was slowly adjusting to it, it was still considerably difficult.

Milly still didn't possess enough experience to stabilize her timing. Other than casting

'Blue Gale', Triple incantations of other types of magic were impossible at this time.

However, Triple incantation 'Blue Gales' power was truly amazing, to the point where the power seemed to have more than doubled.

Hmm... if the power of a double cast is four times as strong, is the power of a triple cast nine times as strong?

Then, if we add one more, would it be sixteen times? Then twenty-five?

I grinned, that's a very scary increase. I shook my head, before I even think about doing that I need to raise my 'Time Squares' skill level. If I do that then I can extend the amount of time I have in my time stop.

Sadly, even the elementary magic I'm most familiar with, 'Red Ball' cannot be cast using a Triple Incantation at my current level. I was so engrossed in thinking about this that I accidentally ran into Lydia's back.

"What's wrong, Lydia?"

"That guy's here again"

I looked over to where Lydia was pointing to see Grain and his two familiars in the distance. However, it seemed that he had already finished hunting. Having finished, he created a pale blue portal, and disappeared before he saw us.

"Did he decide to return...?"

I nodded, "Seems like it. Anyways, it's good, right?"

The stockpile of demons that Grain had caged began to scatter. I was slightly worried that our pace might fall into disorder, but I quickly shook that off. We'll be fine either way.

After this, it would be impossible to talk about returning, anyway.

I pursed my lips, "But, right now we should stick to hunting near the entrance. Milly's coordination with me isn't perfect yet, and there are too many demons to hunt solo"

She nodded, "That's right, going too fast would be unreasonable"

“Eh~. Even though this is a good situation?”

“Yes, yes. Let’s return, Milly-tan♪”

Lydia approached Milly from behind, wrapped her arms around her, and began caressing and stroking her chest. Milly let out a small scream.

“Hyaa!” she jumped, “Lydia, s-stop.”

“Fufu~ Then will you listen to what I say?”

“I just didn’t hear you!” Milly pouted.

Milly writhed around, her arms flaying like an octopus, as she tried to escape from Lydia’s devilish hands. Unfortunately, she had no chance of escape, as Lydia wouldn’t let go until she was satisfied.

“Grandpa, I’m scared...”

Ain popped out of Claude’s chest and looked around, looking dubiously at Lydia. In response to this, Lydia’s movements came to a complete stop.

“Ahh, that’s right. Ain, If you get too close to her you’ll end up making that ‘A~a’ sound.”

“Understood!”

“N...no way... I’m not that scary~?”

As soon as Lydia loosened her hands, Milly made a break for it and ran away. Ain slowly slipped back into Claude’s chest. It’s like the story of hunting two rabbits at the same time and getting neither.

Holding back my laughter, we continued on to the entrance.

On the way, we fought several Mist Wraiths, although there wasn’t a problem as they came one at a time. However, saying that, battling two at once ceased being hard now. A considerable amount of time passed as we continued our hunt. Because of the amount of time spent battling, the level of our Growth skill increased. Having experience using it, we never found ourselves in a pinch.

While walking and thinking about this, I noticed a pale blue light at the edge of my vision.

Was that... Grain?

While I was looking, Grain's upper body emerged from the portal, and his two familiars showed up behind him. He looked around restlessly for a bit, before popping his head back into the portal and disappearing.

"Shit! Everyone, get back!"

"What's wrong, Zeph?"

"Grain didn't go back! He's been looking for the boss"

This boss, being a second level boss , took around half a year to a year to revive. I never thought we'd have the bad luck for it to revive while we were here, so I never checked. I cursed at my carelessness.

"Milly, get 'Teleport' ready in case we come across him. If we get hit by even one of his magic attacks, we could die. Lydia, I'm counting on you to help Milly if anything happens" I say, while grabbing onto Claude's hand.

Claude looked at me in surprise, and grasped my sweaty hand as she trembled. I could feel the tension transmitted through it. With the exception of Claude, I casted 'Safe Protection' on everyone. Although it was only for peace of mind, it was better than nothing.

"Same as always: if the situation gets bad, don't worry about me. You've all gained experience so I refuse to let you die in vain. Don't worry about me and just go"

All three of them went silent.

I pondered for a bit. 'Hmm..? Did I scare them a little more than necessary?'

Everyone, including me, had been too relaxed lately. We needed to prepare ourselves a little more.

"What? I don't understand what we should do. There's no problem as long as we run from the boss. Regarding the 'Teleport Seal', there's no way he'd use it unless he goes

into berserk mode. If we scatter, we can meet at the entrance.”

“I...I know.”

Lydia led the way as we moved quickly.

Being on the second level of Wanaruta was a strong advantage, as it was extremely complex. As we turned the corners, we could hear our hearts beating. Lydia peeked around the corner and looked, seeing nothing there she gave us an ‘OK’ sign.

With Lydia in front, we begin moving quickly.

Somehow we had managed to make it to the last straight hallway leading to the first level. Even if we met the boss here, it was likely that we could escape and make it to the first level, before we teleported out. While we were carefully advancing down the hallway, an explosion resounded from the side.

“Hiyaah!?”

Claude clung to my arm, and Lydia scooped Milly in her arms and jumped back to the wall.

“So...so surprising”

“Grain must’ve started fighting with the boss”

I sighed with relief. If that was the case, then we were safe.

I started walking faster. After leaving, everyone will be much safer.

Chirin Chirin.

I turned to where the sound was coming from, and saw a Wraith Master.

I cursed. It seems Lady Luck had really forsaken me. Of course it appeared now. Truth be told, I’m not surprised at all.

“Milly!”

“I know already♪”

Milly began to cast 'Blue Gale', and I started 'Time Square' in preparation for when her palm shines.

I caught my breath. '...was my timing a little late!?'

Even though I missed the timing for the simultaneous invocation, I still doubled casted 'Blue Gale.'

After all, even without the double casting the power was still mind-blowing.

The 'Time Square' was released, and the tornado was formed.

I frowned. It seemed to be a failure, for some reason.

My double invocations, along with Milly's attack, hit the Wraith Master, however only the followers were affected.

Because there was no helping it, Claude separated her hand from mine and prepared to participate in the battle.

"Claude, Lydia, don't go too far!"

"Yes!"

I began to run forward while invoking 'double White Crash'.

The white sphere wrapped around the Wraith Master at the same time Lydia attacked.

"Blue Gale!"

In an instant, Milly's magic blew away what was left of the Wraith Master.

With a roaring sound, the wall that was lying sideways was blown off. A *pitter-patter* sound could be heard as bits dropped against the stone pavement.

An arm the width of a tree, and a small foot that didn't seem to match it, could be seen through the giant cloud of rising dust.

Crimson lines stretched across several folds of the big, black body. The face of a person could be seen wriggling around on the surface.

My face paled, this creature in front of me matched the description of the second level boss.

The Devil, Dark Wraith!

“GOOOOOH!”

The Dark Wraith's body began to swell, as he let out a roar to the heavens.

The atmosphere trembled, and everyone was frozen in surprise.

The eyes, that were all over the body of the creature, were focused on Milly, and magical light was beginning to shine.

Not good! I think because Milly destroyed the Wraith Master with her ‘Blue Gale’, he established her as his target?! Milly was still frozen from the Dark Wraith's roar. It seemed that she was in no condition to concentrate and use teleport!

“Milly, run away!”

I began to cast ‘Teleport’, moving in front of Milly, in that instant, two projectiles of white light shot piercing the Dark Wraith.

The lights twisted and spiralled together, scraping against the Dark Wraith. The light began to fade, and one of Grain’s familiars appeared.

“Oi, oi. Aren’t you the stupid brats from before? Aren’t you Zeph? Yeah, sounds about right”

Grain appeared through the smoke. After seeing me his smile spread from ear to ear.

They came out from the remnants of the wall, they were probably in battle with this Dark Wraith on the other side of the wall. I could see the tremendous traces of destruction from their fight.

This is bad.

It seems that we were dragged right into the middle of battle between the Dark Wraith and Grain?

CHAPTER 77

DARK WRAITH, PART 2

“Kuku, Little kids like you should stay indoors ya know? From here on out it will be a battlefield!”

When he swung his one handed sword like a baton, the red hair and blue haired familiars returned to Grain’s side. It would seem that their levels are higher than before.

“Red, Blue. You don’t have to pay attention to those guys. Just aim at the target”

Hearing Grain’s words, the two familiars nod their heads and poised their weapons.

Grain silently chants some things and his familiar spirits were once again beginning to glow with light.

It was a magic I’ve never seen before.

Is this perhaps, a special kind of magic that the dispatched magicians possess?

Before it’s too late, I held on to Milly shoulder and teleported to the back.

“....? The exit is over there isn’t it? Zeph?”

“I also want to go in that direction but...”

The gigantic figure of the Dark Wraith was blocking the narrow passage and it was difficult to pass it with the use of teleport.

If it is not done properly, then we might receive some backlash and get caught up in their fight.

Moreover, the road we used to come here was blocked up by the previous attack from Grain.

This situation was exceedingly bad.

"Although it is regrettable, we can only hope that Grain wins his battle. We are going to back him up, Milly"

"Eh~....."

I also don't like it, but it's better than losing right?

Chanting out Time Square, I began to cast White Sphere and Red Sphere.

"Nova Sphere!"

Milly also casts a white sphere and a white flame burns the Dark Wraith.

"Oi oi, I don't need your shabby support you know? My familiars will be enough to take care of it"

Saying this and turning towards us, Grain had a grin on his face.

It's not like I'm here because I want to help.

However, it is true that Grain's familiars seem pretty strong.

They easily dodge the stout arm of the Dark Wraith, the familiar spirit called Blue uses both of her hands to swing down her sword towards the Dark Wraith.

The Dark Wraith's arm bent unnaturally and its ugly face let out a low groan.

Blue was going to intercept the other arm, but the familiar called Red uses her spear in a thrusting motion to stop the attack.

They were quite a good combination.

Doesn't Grain plan on helping out his familiars? all he's doing right now is carrying the one handed sword on his shoulder and spectating the fight.

It seems that he is only strengthening his familiar's with his magic periodically.

Grain was just observing the situation but there were still the after effects of the Dark Wraith's attacks as bits of rock and stone flew towards him.

Just before the moment of impact, Red goes in front of Grain and blocks the remnants of rock, perfectly cutting all the debris down.

Red was bleeding a little from her forehead, but there doesn't seem to be much damage taken.

Grain acts like what just occurred was the most natural thing and he pushed his chin outwards.

I guess he's telling her to 'Get back in there already' ?

Receiving his orders, Red immediately springs back into combat and flies towards the Dark Wraith.

He's letting his familiar do both offence and defence.

He's living such a comfortable life isn't he?

Dark Wraith

Level 97

8 5 9 8 5 6 4 / 1 2 5 9 6 3 8 4

This is the first time I've ever confronted the Dark Wraith, and as expected its magical power level is not something ordinary.

It's about 60 times more than the Sunny Raven?

Naturally, I haven't even taken into account the disparity in their offensive ability.

Even for his familiars, if any of them took a direct hit, they would probably get wiped out in a single blow.

I think Grain must also realize this fact, as whenever his familiar gets grazed by an attack, he would immediately try to re-apply Safe Protection on them.

"It....It's amazing isn't it? I didn't know such a fighting method existed....."

"After seeing this, I'm convinced, I also want a familiar~"

Saying that, Milly launches a white sphere at the Dark Wraith. She wasn't inflicting

that much damage, but the experience points she obtained from the Dark Wraith should be massive. If Grain manages to defeat the Dark Wraith, we should be able to obtain a large amount of experience points from the contribution we provided.

Although I feel a little annoyed when I have to take the leftovers from Grain, If I can make use of him, I will be glad to do so.

“Do your best!”

“Hyaa!? Ain-chan, please don’t move around so suddenly~”

Ain pops out from within Claude’s breasts, and perhaps she felt some sort of a connection as they were both familiars, Ain was giving her support to Grain’s familiars.

Oh man, she’s so carefree.

But this fight was really quite stable right now.

I confirmed with the use of Scout Scope, and Grain’s familiars were actually both beyond level 90.

Although, this particular monster was not something that those two could just easily take on.

It just goes to show how formidable Grain’s reinforcement spells are.

While thinking such things I continued to fire my Nova Sphere which burned the Dark Wraith with a white flame, its black skin was crackling and tearing, underneath its crust was a deep crimson body.

Almost like it was baring its internal organs, its blood vessels were popping out of its body and pulsating with a *thump thump*

It looked truly ominous. This must be the berserk mode of the Dark Wraith?

“Is it going berserk!?”

“Ahh, the problem starts from here on out. Claude and Milly, don’t under any circumstances part from the group”

The Dark Wraith, roars out in an overpowering voice filled with magical power.

The effective range is considerably wide.

With this, Grain probably can't use teleport anymore.

For us we are just far enough that we can still use teleport, but if it drifts a little more in this direction, the Dark Wraith will be able to nullify our ability to teleport.

Just as a precaution, I used blue wall, and I generated a wall between us and the Dark Wraith.

Although it's only for our peace of mind, it's much better than not doing anything.

“Ku ku ku, What’s wrong? Are you scared? Huh Zeph-kun?”

I ignored Grain who was trying to provoke me, and I fired another Nova Sphere at the Dark Wraith.

Grain was clicking his tongue, as he once again chanted out spells to strengthen and reinforce both Red and Blue, the Dark Wraith opened its large mouth.

“Crap.....!?”

“Gooooooooahhhhhh!!”

When the Dark Wraith lets out a savage roar, the lights surrounding the familiar spirits start to dim.

Even the blue wall that was in front of us was starting to dissipate.

It would seem that it's roar has a magic negating effect.

“Tsk!”

Grain brings his hands together in order to cast a spell, but it doesn't seem like he's going to make it.

The Dark Wraith shakes its arms and swings downwards towards Grain, his familiars use their weapons and were poised to stop the blow, but they were instantly smashed

up.

“Ah!”

Ain instinctively raises a loud voice.

When the Dark Wraith lifts up its arms from the floor, bits of stone drop down in a *pitter patter*, and within the large crater on the ground was a squashed Red and Blue.

Their weapons were crushed and their bodies were twitching and convulsing.

Although they aren't dead, it doesn't seem like they would be able to fight any longer.

Or more like, the way things are going, even were are going to be in trouble.

“Grain!”

“Geez, I guess it can't be helped”

Saying that, Grain started to walk towards Red.

Is he still trying to make them fight?

Red extends her trembling hands towards Grain, and he stabs her small back with his one handed sword.

“Eh.....?”

Her mouth was flapping open and closed like a fish unable to breathe, and grain once again pierces red with his sword.

It is likely that she died, Red's body disappeared like sand drifting in the wind.

Seeing this, Blue tries to crawl away from Grain, but Grain easily catches up to her and slits her neck and cuts it off.

Grain then steps on Blue's severed head as he squished it under his feet, and just like that her body also started to crumble and disappear.

Doing such a thing, Grain didn't have any change in his expression.

Wh....what the hell is he doing.....?

Seeing such a shocking scene, my brain stopped working.

Everyone else also did not understand the situation and was completely flabbergasted.

"Haa geez, I'm going to have to start again from the beginning. How troublesome"

Breaking the silence that everyone was in from Grain's words, the Dark Wraith bellows out a roar as it charged towards Grain.

He dodges the attack by a hairsbreadth, and immediately casting his portal, Grain's body was starting to get wrapped in a blue light, as it was transferring to a different dimension.

It would seem that a portal is different from the teleportation ability and the Dark Wraith's magic suppression effect does not influence the ability to create a portal.

"Then with this, I'm going to head off. Maybe we will meet again.....That's if you live"

'Kukuku' Grain was stifling a laughter as he disappeared, The Dark Wraith was breathing raggedly as it stared to glare at us.

Shit, it's next target seems to be us!

CHAPTER 78

DARK WRAITH, PART 3 – CONCLUSION

“GOOOOOOO!!”

“It’s coming!” (Zeph)

I raised my voice to get everyone to come back to their senses, after being surprised by Dark Wraith’s roar. Because Ain was still shocked at how Grain killed his familiars, it seems like she still hasn’t recovered. However, I didn’t have the time to be concerned about that right now.

I aimed my attack at Dark Wraith’s foot, and when I cast Blue Wall, the huge figure was caught by the ice wall, but.

“GOOOOOOO!!”

Dark Wraith roared, causing the ice wall to disappear in a twinkle. A roar that negates magic. Shit, this is troublesome.

Dark Wraith’s magical level value is 12 million.

Berserk mode increases an additional one-third to power, so that’s 4 million, this is many times more than the Sunny Raven’s magical power. It is impossible for us now to defeat it. We have no choice but to escape.

“Milly, I leave Claude to you”

“Eh.....?”

I let go of the bewildered Claude’s hand, and made Milly grasp it.

“Also Lydia, hand me all the magical power restoring medicine that you have”

“That’s....fine, but Zeph-chi, you can’t be”

“I’ll buy you some time, so you guys go on ahead”

My words changed Milly's facial expression.

"That's wrong! Don't joke around! If that's the case, then I'll stay!" (Milly)

"Milly can't use Safe Protection, and this kind of thing is my specialty" (Zeph)

"But.....!" (Milly)

"Relax, it's not like me to die in such a place anyways"

As I said that, I ruffled the top of Milly's head.

I pushed Milly, whose eyes were wet and face looked like she will cry, away with all my strength and she was held back by Lydia.

"Go! I leave everyone to you. Aren't you the leader? Milly!" (Zeph)

".....Yeah!" (Milly)

Milly said while wiping her tears, and changed to a dignified look. Escaping from the melting restraints from Blue Wall, Dark Wraith took a big step forward towards me and I cast White Shot at him. A ball of white light burst on the giant body of Dark Wraith, and it turned its intense animosity in my direction.

When my eyes turned towards the dozen of eyes throughout its body, I felt a tremendous pressure. Well, well, looks like normal methods won't work.

"Milly! Hurry up and go!"

"tch.....!"

Picking the moment when Dark Wraith's attention was concentrated on me, Milly teleported as far as she could while clutching to Claude's and Lydia's hands.

I casted Nova Sphere towards Dark Wraith as it glanced and faced Milly. The white flame burned its whole body and once again, the Dark Wraith turned around to face me.

In the meantime, Milly and the others ran around the side of Dark Wraith until they were out of its attack range. Alright, the first condition is cleared.

I casted Blue Wall and an ice wall spread in between Milly and the others. I jumped and dodged Dark Wraith's incoming attack, and facing the ground, I chanted Blue Wall.

With a Zon!, the ice wall spread sideways towards Dark Wraith's direction and was pushed outwards behind me. I got on top of the ice wall, which burst out sideways, and ran on the opposite side of Dark Wraith. The Blue Wall that grew in the horizontal orientation was like ice formed on top of a pond, so slippery that it makes it hard to walk.

But, that means it is also the same for the Dark Wraith. Naturally, Dark Wraith also climbed on top of the side of the pushed-out wall, running and chasing behind me threateningly. As I chanted Blue Wall sideways one more time, an ice wall stretched towards Dark Wraith from my hands above my head, but.

With agility, it jumped on to the wall and smiled in ridicule. Will I be able to gain more distance from it using this method? It is a surprisingly nimble thing.

Dark Wraith's entire body shone red, and while my White Wall erasing the large amount of elementary magic that it fired, I faced it and ran. I slide through the length of Dark Wraith's legs to attack it while it was unguarded, and I chanted Blue Wall while facing the front, trapping both of its feet with an ice wall.

Turning to face my direction, Dark Wraith once again was coming after me threateningly. In that case, how about this? I stood up and while the ice wall still trapped the legs, I cast just a few Blue Walls diagonally.

Dark Wraith jumped onto the top like before, but it slowly slipped down the low angle hill of connected ice.....is what I expected but instead it sunk its legs into the ice wall and supported the big body from slipping and falling.

Shit, it's persistent.

I casted Blue Wall one more time horizontally, and intended to trap Dark Wraith, but it also avoided that and jumped upon the wall.

This area is full of all the ice walls I created.

Blue Wall has a surprising large magical power consumption.

While I gulping down the magical power restoring medicine, I exhaled freezing white

breath and prepared my breathing.

While charging ahead, I ascertained the timing that it's right hand fist will be thrown, and I kicked the ice wall behind me and slid to the other side, I created another wall with Blue Wall in order to catch my body as it slid.

Turning around, I released Blue Wall horizontal towards Dark Wraith who was chasing me, but it jumped on it, slid and dodged it, continuing its pursuit. When my magical power looked as if it will be exhausted, I supplied it with the magical power restorative medicine.

The Dark Wraith continued chasing me, and the ice walls continued to accumulate. From the bottom of the ground floor, how tall has it become now?

Because the tallest tower of the second level was on my right hand side, I jumped from the ice wall and held on to it.

The second condition is cleared.

The Dark Wraith was trying to follow me by jumping on to the tower, and so I covered the ice tower with Blue Wall.

“GOOOOOOOOO!!”

Part of the cover slowly melted with Dark Wraith's roar.

(.....As expected, that roar only negates magic in a rectangular area in front of it. If it could erase the ice wall in its entirety, then it would save me some trouble as well)

Whether or not it comprehended my words, I finished my casting the moment Dark Wraith looked in my direction and reacted.

“Red Zero”

A huge flame sword came out from my hands, stopped right above Dark Wraith, and extended directly below. The flame sword pierced Dark Wraith, but the effect was light, and it faced me again with a weakened animosity.

But, there is no problem. I wasn't aiming at you, Dark Wraith, but rather at the ice wall underneath you.

The flame sword that pierced Dark Wraith melted the ice wall in an instant, as well as the one under, and the one under that, melting them one by one.

The flame sword pierced in the ice spire reached the lower level and opened a large hole in the center.

Dark Wraith, who was at the top of it, scratched at the sky with its huge arms trying to grab the ice wall, but the ice that has become slippery due to the flame, could by no means be grabbed.

The result: it fell.

After a long drifting sound of the wind, there was a huge splashing sound.

I wonder if lower level of the ice wall actually had a lake?

It was looking at me from far below, but you probably don't have an attack that can reach me from there right? Dark Wraith.

"My bad, if there's another opportunity, let's fight againwhen we're in top-condition"

Saying that, I looked down at the water's surface that was Dark Wraith, and sat down on the ground.

I probably worried Milly, so I decided to send a guild message.

(Zeph!? Are you safe!?)

(Ah, is this Milly? I managed to shake it off, but I ended up using up all my magical power. After I recover for a bit, let's meet up)

Because I had been running around on top of the ice, my clothes have become completely drenched.

While I'm at it, I suppose I can dry my clothes for a bit.

CHAPTER 79

GRAIN, PART 1

“Now then.....Guess I should return”

My magical power is almost fully restored. I faced the floor and chanted Teleport. When I got down to the place where Grain and his familiars were a while ago, the area was wet with the water from when Blue Wall melted.

If you look up at the ice tower, Dark Wraith is still floating around in the center of the tower.

Even if it was determined to come out of the deep recesses of the ice tower, it is not going to work. I wonder if it's comfortable in there?

Oh well, it's fine, it's not like I'm going to specifically go near it in order to aggravate it. While using Teleport to dodge and weave around the monsters along the way, I headed for the entrance of Wanaruta City Ruins.

It's probably going to take considerable amount of time. I called out to Milly via guild message to set up a place to meet.

(Milly, I'm going to return soon)

(.....)

.....? That's strange.

There's no answer.

(Lydia? Claude?)

All three of them didn't respond to my call.

Did something happen?

I have a really bad feeling.

I ran towards the entrance while having the maximum amount of alertness.

Just in case, I put enhancement magic on myself.

While walking along the intricate wall, I slipped past the crevices of the walls and in the direction of the entrance, I managed to spot a man wearing a white coat.

That is.....Grain!?

Why is that guy here?

Didn't he already leave?

The figures of Milly and the others are nowhere in sight. Given that they didn't respond to my call, it may be possible that they couldn't respond.

(Grain.....!)

It's his doing, without a doubt.

The disappearance of Milly and others coinciding with the fact that Grain brutally murdered his own familiars repeated within my mind, all the blood in my body boiled in an instant.

My vision became bright red, and I clenched my teeth, chipping them a little.

“Grain!”

I couldn't bear it any longer and I jumped from the wall, and stood right in front of him.

“Yo, looks like you survived, didn't cha?”

Grain ridiculed me and I was trembling with anger.

I felt like a blood vessel would pop.

I just barely resisted the urge to immediately fire a spell, and I began to question him.

“.....Where is everyone”

“Relax, I haven’t killed them. I only had them sleep over there”

When I looked at the direction Grain pointed with his thumb, there were the figures of three people face-down, collapsed.

I saw previously that he was able to cast strengthening type magic on his familiars, it would seem that as a dispatched magician, he isn’t limited to these types of reinforcement magic’s but can also use debuff type sleeping magic.

Damn, what are his limits?

This was probably a surprise attack. Though, a Dispatched Magician can’t easily make three people fall asleep. Maybe it is an original Sleep Code or some kind of inherent magic used at the same time.

“Anyways, is there something you need from us? I’m not such a soft-hearted person that won’t say anything after you’ve done this kind of thing.....!”

“What? You’ve got this all wrong. Originally I didn’t even intend to leave you all alive. After all, you did see a lot of bad things that you shouldn’t have seen.”

“Things we shouldn’t have seen? You killing a familiar? You using a boss to kill us? Or how much of a trash you’ve been for doing such things?”

While breaking out into a grin, he looked down on me and I was still throwing out all the words to express my anger towards him.

“In any case, waiting here for you guys was the right choice, although I really didn’t expect that you would survive that ordeal”

“did you miscalculate?”

“Well... I will give you this acknowledgment, Zeph. You are quite the brat. That’s why I let them live”

Grain said that, and pointed his left hand towards the direction of the three sleeping people.

No way, this guy.....!

“Don’t you dare move! If you are to display even the slightest bit of resistance, the lives of those three will be gone”

“.....You bastard!”

Grain laughed at my face which was warped with anger, and looked like he was having fun looking deep into my heart. and chanted Summon Servant. The familiar, that was born, was a little girl who was black with horns that curved like a goat. It had small, black wings on its back, and served Grain with eyes that contain no feelings.

Aegis Blacktail

Level 1

Magical Power Level 230

When I looked with Scout Scope, I couldn’t believe that her strength was at level 1.

If I were to believe Grain’s words that the magician’s own abilities influence the types of Familiars he or she will summon, this would mean that I am falling behind this guy.

“From now on, I’m going to call you Black” (Grain speaking)

The familiar nodded in agreement to Grain’s words. It probably is indifferent concerning to the name Grain gave it. Which reminds me, I feel like the names of the previously killed Blue and Red, which I checked with Scout Scope, were also different.

“Black, shred that brat with this sword.But don’t kill him right away, ok? It’ll be boring, you know?”

Because of the restrictions of being part of the Dispatched Magicians, he cannot harm me directly, is he trying to torment me with a familiar? This guy really is rotten to the depths of his heart. Black took the sword from Grain, and made one shallow cut on me.

“Tch.....!”

Two times, three times, Black kept shallowly cutting the helpless me, and while laughing, Grain looked down on me whose cuts were accumulating.

He asked me if I would dare to counter-attack, but though he carelessly showed that he was having fun, he did not put down his hand that was turned towards Milly and

the others, ready to attack the sleeping girls. Blood began to ooze out from my shredded clothing.

(Sh.....it.....!)

The probability of me firing magic here and defeating Grain is very thin. A rotten Dispatched Magician, if I were to fight that kind of magical strength head-on, then the difference is way above me. Furthermore, he took hostages.

(.....!)

My clothes became tattered from the familiar's attacks, and a shallow pool of blood kept appearing at my feet. Taking any more damage will be bad! Sink or swim, I have no other choice.....!

In the moment that I concentrated on my right hand, Grain's hands started releasing magic towards the girls.

“Wha.....!”

When the rising white smoke cleared, I saw a huge empty hole on the side of Milly and the others. It looks like it didn't hit the three of them.

“Aah, of course, using magic is banned. If you become a master like me, then you can also sense magic.....Shall I hit them next time? Oi?”

When Grain said that and gave some kind of order, Black nodded in agreement, and then. She thrust the sword into my right hand.

“Guaaaaaaaa!?” (Zeph)

“Hyahahahaha! Excellent voice, Oi! I, always couldn't stomach you punks! You kept looking at me as if you could see through me.....Although it's disappointing that because of the restrictions I can't kill you, die screaming while you cry at your own uselessness!”

The feeling of my right hand being gouged.

Shit, however.

I made an opportunity, Claude.

“Yaaaaaaaaah!!” (Claude)

A little rapier pierced Grain’s right eye. In Claude’s chest was a concealed Ain.

“What is this fly! Shit! My....eye.....what did you doooooooooo!!”

“I’m not a fly! I am! We are!”

A half-crazed Grain faced Ain and fired magic randomly towards the sky, and estimating the timing, I chanted Summon Servant and withdrew Ain. Impulsively firing powerful magic into the empty sky creates a huge chance. There’s no way I could overlook it.

Casting Red Clash and Black Crash at the same time, Pyro Crash buried the familiar of Grain, who was becoming befuddled.

“Don’t think bad of me. If you’re going to bear a grudge, bear it against your master”
(Zeph)

I snatched Grain’s sword from the hand of the familiar that was becoming sand, and prepared to attack.

“You bastaarrrrrrddddd!!”

While Grain’s screams were rising, he released magic in the direction of the three girls.

A powerful burst of flames surrounded the three of them.....but.

“Unfortunately, magic won’t work against me. I pretended to be asleep.....until Zeph arrived”

“Nice, Claude”

Claude, near the Milly and Lydia, watched Grain, discerning that she couldn’t win by herself alone and decided to pretend to sleep.

When first I talked in the guild message, I couldn’t understand what was being said from too far away, but when I descended and started having a conversation with Grain,

I first noticed that Claude was pretending to sleep.

While I was talking to Grain, I worked out a strategic plan with Claude via guild message.

And then, I created an opportunity, and this is how we have arrived at the current situation.

“Magic.....doesn’t work.....!?” (Grain)

“Relax, your opponent will be me. Claude will take care of the other two”

“.....I understand!” (Claude)

The two were sleeping deeply. In addition, even though Grain’s personality is shit, it is true that he is strong. I don’t have the flexibility to fight while protecting Milly and the others. And above all.

“Grain, If I don’t defeat you by myself, I won’t feel satisfied!”

Roaring, magical power burst out of my body covering it in a violent tempest of destructive energy.

CHAPTER 80

GRAIN, PART 2

“Zephhhhhhhhhh!!!!”

While blood was flowing from his destroyed right eye, Grain revealed his fierce anger. But on the other hand, his head seemed to cool down enough, and even though he was screaming, he was covered in a magical light. It was the same enhancement magic he used on his familiars, just like in the fight against Dark Wraith.

However, I'm not the type to wait leisurely for the magic to finish developing.

Casting Red Crash and Black Crash at the same time, I invoked Pyro Crash and released it towards Grain.

The basis of magician vs. magician fights is ‘The one who strikes first wins’, the one who hits the other with powerful magic first will be the winner.

If I was against an ordinary adventurer, it would be possible that I could defeat him with just a hit from Red Crash. As for my pride, Pyro Crash, which is close to the same power level as a Grand Magic, as long as my opponent is human, they will definitely be defeated.

A spiral of swirling winds of fire engulfed Grain and it swallowed up the ground, hollowing it out, however.

“You would dare to raise your hand against a Dispatched Magician.....? With this the f*cking annoying limitation has been lifted. Now I can also freely retaliate”

Grain said with a voice filled with killing intent, and the strength of the wave of magic coming from him caused the magic clad around me to waver greatly.

“Kaah!”

When Grain psyched himself up, he scattered the swirling winds of fire and easily destroyed the shape of the spiral. That's impossible! My Pyro Crash was erased!?

"Kukuku, you shouldn't be surprised. Dispatched magicians have a non-aggressive policy, so I can't lay a hand on you. Nevertheless, if you brats are using powerful magic, then I have a right to defend myself. Well, I will praise you for actually damaging me"

Grain said, broadly grinning and triumphant. Although his clothes and body are slightly burned, it doesn't seem like a lot of damage. Is it because of that enhancement magic? As expected, it doesn't look like it will be easy to defeat him with this level of magic.

Grain raised his hands above his head, I noticed this and so I immediately jumped aside, just as this occurred, the place that I was just standing at was covered in a wave of flames.

Red Bullet, huh?

Before it was called Red Blaster and it seems like Grain has an affinity towards Red Magic. In my previous life, I mastered Red Magic and was called the Flame of Flames and I could see that he fired out a considerably strong magic. He's at approximately the same level as me from back in those times.

This will be interesting.

While continually counterattacking Grain's fire balls, that would hit me, with Blue Ball, I ran towards him and chanted Time Square.

In the middle of the time suspension effect, I cast Black Boots and Red Glove.

"Magenta Coat!"

A speckled burning coat covered my body. It is simple, but it is a combination of speed enhancement and attack enhancement. Although power drops compared to chanting each spell twice, the cost performance is excellent.

Weaving past the Red Bullet's he fired, I used the sword that I grabbed from Grain's familiar with both of my hands, using all my might I thrusted at him.

".....Aren't you weak! You damn shorty!"

Grain shouted and at the same time took out his silver shield, easily stopping my attack.

Did he take it out from his bag in an instant? After all, this guy is used to actual combat. He continued to use all his strength to repel my magic with his shield, the distance between us was being shrinking.

“Ora!”

Grain shot Red Bullet again, and I countered it with Blue Bullet. If there are opposing magic like Red and Blue, Sky and Green of equal rank, then they cancel each other out, making the user's level irrelevant.

However, what should I do, if this continues....? My opponent right now definitely has better magical abilities and power consumption than me, and furthermore, my magic barely has an effect.

But that reminds me, Grain took damage from Ain's rapier and he uses a shield to deflect attacks from a sword. I wonder if I were to use physical attacks, then there would be some effect.

“Wait, the sword you are using is not matched well against your opponent”

“However, I don't have any other weapons.....”

When I turned to the familiar voice, there was a blonde girl who flew besides me while I was running. Wings and hair that glowed gold, crimson eyes that looked strong. With her white dress-like clothes, she looked just like an angel.

“.....Who are you?”

“Whaat!? If you looked, you should know. It's me. I-t i-s m-e!”

When I looked closely at the girl who was pointing at herself, I recognized the what was sprouting out on top of her head, a red ribbon.

It can't be...

“.....Are you Ain?”

“Gramps, you just looked at my ribbon and said that.....right?”

Behind Ain, who was staring at me, Grain's ball of magic passed by, and caused an

explosion.

“Uoh!?” (Zeph)

“We’re not in a situation to just be careless. old man, your hand!”

“Hand?”

While guessing about her request, I stuck out my left hand, and Ain grabbed it and cast a dazzling light. The light surprised me, but I could hear Ain’s determination.

“That guy treated my comrades terribly....I absolutely won’t forgive him for it!”

Ain’s voice harbored a strong wrath. I could feel the strong anger she has towards Grain, who killed his own familiars. I don’t know what kind of reason he could have had, but it’s impossible that just saying ‘It’s because they’re my familiars’ is a good enough reason.

“I also feel the same. Let’s cooperate and defeat that guy, Ain”

“Yeah!”

The light that Ain released gradually settled down, and all that was left in my hands was a single sword. I believe that the golden radiance released before from the light was Ain’s wings.

(I shall call this technique Divine Sword Ainbelle)

Ain, who became a sword, talked directly in my head. Nevertheless, where have I heard that expression before..... Ah well, I probably don’t need to be concerned about it.

I put Grain’s sword into my bag, and with both hands holding the Divine Sword Ainbelle, I prepared to advance.

“Die, you trash!”

At that moment, Grain fired magic.

Red Blaster, huh?

(Old man, catch it!)

Reacting to Ain's voice, I caught Grain's Red Blaster right away with Ainbelle's sword form, and the spell was completely absorbed. Because Ainbelle absorbed the magic, the ruby embedded in the handle shined sharply.

"This is....." (Zeph)

"What!? You absorbed my magic....?" (Grain)

In the past, this kind of magical sword didn't exist. A sword with a jewel embedded in the handle that absorbs magic, turning it into its own power, surely the way to use this is.....

When I swung the sword towards the surprised Grain, the previously absorbed Red Blaster was released towards him.

"Nuo!?" (Grain)

Grain panicked and jumped back, and a heat ray burned at his feet.

Looks like it's that kind of thing.

"Divine sword Ainbelle.....This sword is great. Thank you Ain"

I brandished Ainbelle taking my stance against Grain, maybe it was Ain's reply, but light starts shining from the edge of the blade, and beads of shining light danced in the air.



CHAPTER 81

GRAIN, CONCLUSION

“DON’T SCREW WITH MEEEEEE!!”

“While screaming, Grain fired a Red Sphere and I absorbed it with Ainbelle, and at the same time I swung the sword, cast Time Square, and chanted Red Sphere twice.

“Red Sphere Triple!”

As a counter attack, I shot a tremendous flame sphere which engulfed Grain, burning him.

However, the flickering shape of a person inside the flames still looked healthy.

“Gaaaa!”

Although the fireball was immediately erased together with his scream, the magical light surrounding Grain also disappeared and his coat was burnt black.

Grain, who had an anguished expression, jumped back while firing Red Bullet.

I countered with Blue Bullet and when I immediately tried to pursue him, Grain once again clad himself with magic.

Damn, he did it again.

To break his guard, even Triple magic won’t suffice.

(Ain, I want you to listen for a bit)

(What?)

I expressed my thinking to Ain, who looked doubtful.

(.....I was thinking we would go with this plan)

(WHAT!? Impossible! Nope, nope . Nope! There’s no way that kind of thing will work!)

(But, this is the only way to defeat that guy. Lend me your power)

When I said that, Ain pondered for a bit, and after that she gave a small reply.

(.....I understand. In exchange, you have to definitely win!)

(Of course.)

After the discussion, I looked over at Grain, who began chanting a spell.

“Oh God of Red Magic, teacher of Red Magic and Seeker of Truth of the farthest regions.....” (Grain)

Is this chant, Red Zero?

As the strongest of the Red System Grand Magic's, it releases all the user's magical power, has a long cast time, and furthermore it is difficult to use in a person-to-person battle due to leaving the user defenseless after firing, but if the user does manage to invoke it, it is quite difficult to dodge or defend against it using ordinary methods.

That is based on the theory, but if a Dispatched Magician has high defense due to inherent magic and a method to recover, then tactics are probably nothing to them.

However, I won't allow him to cast that spell.

When I tried to attack Grain before he finished chanting, I realized in the moment I chanted, that my own magical power had decreased by a lot. It was the magical power from my body that was being absorbed by Ainbelle in order to maintain her form.

While I summoned Ain, I felt that a minuscule amount of magical power was consumed, but after she became a sword, the deduction became a lot more obvious.

With this, I can't attack properly, so I drank a magical restorative medicine in one gulp.

“Grant me the power to reach.....” (Grain)

After I finished drinking the magical restoration medicine, Grain almost finished his chant and I quickly cast Time Square.

Will I make it.....?!

I cast Time Square, and chant Red Crash and Black Crash. And I enchanted Pyro Crash in Ainbelle's sword form. Pyro Crash was absorbed into the ruby in the handle of the sword.

(Nn.....!)

The ruby charged with Pyro Crash at the same time Ain groaned a little.

“....Together with this spinning blade of crimson, destroy my enemies!!....Red Zero!”
(Grain)

While I was still putting my preparation in order, Grain's chant ended and Red Zero was invoked.

This isn't good....!

A sword of blazing fire stretched out from Grain's hand and approached right before my eyes.

(Damn, I'm not ready....!) (Zeph)

The instant I was going to cast Time Square, Claude stood in front of me, with a shield ready to stand in the way of the spell. The sword of blazing fire directly hit Claude, who showed an anguished expression as she stopped the blow.

“Claude!?”

“Hurry up, that guy....!”

“....You saved me!”

I said a small thanks to Claude who was enduring Red Zero, and then I dashed towards Grain. While he was irritated that the flame sword passed through as Claude appeared with the smoke, Grain clicked his tongue.

“Magical invalidation.....It's you again!” (Grain)

“I guess I'm a good comrade” (Claude)

Appearing suddenly at my chest, Grain prepared with his shield to catch my sword

blow. I slide away and took some distance. After that, I released the Pyro Crash that was charged in the Divine Sword Ainbelle. simultaneously I chanted—

(Time Square!)

Time stopped and I cast Blue Crash and Green Crash.

Red, Sky, Blue, Green, the four colors of magical energy were now being combined and blended together, molding into a golden color. It was at this moment that I slashed at him with the Divine Sword Ainbelle; a swirl of golden magic was fired towards Grain.

“Tetra Crash!”

From the innumerable amount of converging light spirals, one beam cut Grain and tore off the magic armor around him into shreds.

“Gohok.....!” (Grain)

Grain had a huge cut on his chest, he coughed blood from his mouth and a little of it got on my face. When I pulled out the sword, blood kept dripping onto the floor. Grain collapsed and fell on his knees, looking at me with vacant eyes.

He seemed to have no idea what just happened.

“.....It’s over” (Zeph)

I positioned Ainbelle and swung her downwards toward Grain. I aimed for his neck, but as I swung downwards, my sword was deflected to the side as a metallic sound resounded. Instead, blood gushed out of Grain’s shoulder. I cannot be careless before I take his life.

Both Grain and I had an expression of confusion. What blocked my sword was the same sword that Grain was holding before. The person who did it was.....

“Azalea!?” (Zeph)

“....Senpai?” (Grain)

“I’m sorry, Zeph-kun, but would you mind putting away your sword?” (Azalea)

Why is Azalea here?.....She probably came to save him, but will she just leave after it's done?

"Likewise, I'm sorry, but Grain nearly killed us so many times. I won't accept an 'Ah I see, is that so?' as an excuse to let him get away with this" (Zeph)

"I understand. Naturally I intend to severely punish this man.Furthermore, don't you have people who would be sad if you dirtied your hands?" (Azalea)

The faces of Claude and everyone else reflected in my view. But this guy tried to kill my comrades. There's no way I could forgive him for that.

"I feel like you will say you won't be satisfied with that.First, I will bury into Grain Ravens body seven species of magical bugs. These bugs coil themselves around the magical power lines in his body, and every time he attempts to use magic, they will damage a part of his body and rampage around inside it. Naturally it comes with intense pain, and in the worst case, death. He probably won't be able to use magic any more. Moreover, his title of 'Dispatched Magician' will be revoked and he will be exiled to the island where criminals live." (Azalea)

Grain heard those words, which were like a death sentence to magicians, and had a shocked face. To a magician, there is nothing more painful than never being able to use magic ever again. Furthermore, in the island of criminals, a Dispatched Magician like Grain will probably be considerably hated.

Even though this guy is a piece of trash who exposed everyone to danger, if he is to be punished to that extent, then.....

".....I understand. That's fine, I leave the matter concerning Grain to you." (Zeph)

"I am grateful. Truthfully, we received several reports of Grain's problematic behavior from various adventurers. However, I had unexpected difficulties obtaining evidence." (Azalea)

Did Grain do similar things to other adventures as well?

He's a demon.

Azalea formed a magic ring which shackled Grain's body.

Is that another type of their characteristic magic?

While Grain was muttering something with his head hung in shame, Azalea was creating a portal.

Come to think of it, I had something I needed to say to Azalea.

“Azalea, I did you a favor, you know” (Zeph)

“Fufu, is that so? I won’t object to the matter concerning Silverie.....will this suffice I wonder?”

Ugh, looks like my connection to Silverie has been exposed..... Regarding the Growth scroll, it’s because the time we used the stolen item made it seem like we were accomplices. I tried to make her indebted to me, but looks like I brought up something bad instead.

“Well then, I’m heading off” (Azalea)

While laughing with a chuckle, Azalea entered the light of the portal and disappeared.

CHAPTER 82

VICTORY

Azalea and Grain disappeared at the same time. I was left behind in this place as I tried to catch my breath when fatigue suddenly rushed over me.

Damn, my whole body is worn out.

Because the bleeding was severe and I used up my magical power, I was completely exhausted.

While my blood was still trickling out, I was barely holding onto Ainbelle and finally let her go, and at the same time, she became a particle of light and disappeared.

At the moment she disappeared, I felt like I heard her voice say 'You worked hard today'.

However, as Ain is quite big now, I wonder if she'll be like that from now on.

When she changes into Divine Sword Ainbelle, the magical power consumption is abnormally huge, and it looks like making her change for a long time will be difficult.

And furthermore, she was cheeky. But then again, it was because of Ain that I was able to win.

At any rate, Quadruple magic by using Time Square and Divine Sword Ainbelle, huh?

Looking at how Triple didn't do that much damage, even Quadruple couldn't guarantee defeating him. It was a gamble, but the method of combining Red, Blue, Green, and Sky, the four colors of Magic, came out from that experience.

As a result, it produced a golden light and brought forth a magic strong enough to defeat Grain. The reason why the spirits did not mix together was because the other three colors had bad compatibility, however, well, I intend to eventually get around to testing out mixing them.

Anyway, right now, I'm tired.

My strength left my whole body, my legs buckled and I sat down on the ground.

“Zeph-kun!”

Claude came running and embraced me all her might. She brought her face close and her eyes were a little moist. When I tried to hide my embarrassment by gently stroking her head, she rubbed her face on my shoulder, wiping her tears.

“Thank goodness.....You didn’t really die.....” (Claude)

“Do I look like the type to fall behind in a magician battle? By the way, what happened to Milly and the others?” (Zeph)

“I placed Milly-san and the others in a shelter, and from there I saw the fight, but because I heard the chant for that huge magic, I gathered arrows and shields.....” (*TL note: ‘I gathered arrows and shields’ is a Japanese saying that means ‘I cannot hold back the feeling of wanting to do something’*)

The chant for Grand Magic is long, but there are many cases where firing this magic once decides the victor in interpersonal battles. In actuality, if Clause was not there for me in order to defend against Red Zero back there, I wouldn’t be able to have enough time to cast Tetra Crash, in a situation where my magical power restoration was insufficient, I don’t know what I would have done.

“You saved me, Claude. If I were to take on that attack, it would have indeed been awful”

“It’s a given that I would do such a thing”

Claude said that, and maybe because of the Red Zero before, but her clothes were burned all over and her shield completely cracked. If I remember correctly, she said that it was an important shield that she received from her mother. When she looked at the broken shield, Claude noticed the crack and looked a little lonely.

“Ah, it’s fine. It is an important item, but because I was able to protect Zeph-kun, Mother would have been happy”

Although she smiled when she answered, her eyes were clouded slightly, and as expected, it did bother her. Of course, although she was expelled from the house, nevertheless, it was still an item she received from her mother.

“However, since you specifically brought out the topic, may I ask for a brand-new shield from Zeph-kun?”

“.....You sure are shrewd, Claude”

I spoke sarcastically and she giggled. That was a completely bad way to dodge the question.

Although she has the ability Screen Point, Claude is not completely resistant to magic. Therefore, her clothes get burned and torn, and she cannot defend until the next side effect. Red Zero....And also a Dispatched Magician, there's no way to take both of them on and not be injured.

All things considered, the fact that Claude's shield was completely destroyed while she was still in her side effect is very terrifying.

“I'll lend you my shoulder. Let's go back to where Milly-san and the others are”
(Claude)

“I'll leave it up to you” (Zeph)

Claude helped up my injured body and while I borrowed her shoulder, we tottered to the place where Milly and the others were still sleeping comfortably. When Claude and I looked at their carefree faces, I burst out laughing.

“Looks like I have once again been useless at the most important moments.....” (Milly)

With a gloomy atmosphere, Milly laid face down on top of the bed. Safely leaving behind Wanaruta Ruins, we returned to the lodge and prepared to have a review meeting in Milly's room. Sitting next to the Milly who was on her stomach, Lydia gently stroked Milly's back to comfort her.

“There.....there, I too was useless this time.....” (Lydia)

“That's not comforting me, Lydia” (Milly)

According to Claude's story, they were waiting by the entrance and then all of a sudden, the two of them fell down, and while she crouched down to wake them up, she sensed Grain's presence. Claude realized that a sleeping spell was cast on them and the moment she saw that it was his doing and sensed that she couldn't win by

herself, she pretended to sleep until I came.

“But Clau-chan, I’m surprised that you thought of such a thing in that kind of situation”

“In the past, there were many times I gambled on that move. Especially during the times, I was dressed as a woman” (Claude)

When Claude said that and laughed loudly, everyone backs up a little. I don’t know how I should respond to that. Claude’s life was a grand solitary journey after all. In any case, we were saved by Claude.

“However, I’ll be troubled if you forgot my achievements”

From behind me, a voice could be heard and with a light, Ain appeared.

Oi Oi, the grown-up Ain can now appear without me casting Summon Servant now?

Claude was looking at the fluttering Ain, but Lydia and Milly were surprised and stared in wonder at the new changed form.

“Um.....who is that?” (Milly)

More precisely, it seems like they don’t understand what’s going on. Ain looked a bit offended at Milly’s voice.

“Aah! That ribbon, could you be!” (Lydia)

Lydia noticed the ribbon and raised her voice. She’s the same as me..... Ain’s eyes now became more and more scornful.

“Ain-san, the way you fly, you’ve grown, haven’t you?” (Claude)

“Muuu....” (Ain)

When Claude petted Ain’s head, maybe Ain didn’t like it, but she sulked a little.

“Ain had a big part in this battle. Let me correct myself, you were really helpful to us” (Zeph)

I said that and followed up with placing my hand on her shoulder. Ain looked

embarrassed and looked to the side.

“.....For the time being, I’ll say it again, I’ll be in your care”

She said that and together with a light, she completely disappeared. Oi Oi, she can disappear on her own as well? She won’t just disappear on her own in the middle of a battle, right?

Suddenly, a golden light shone and could be seen from the bag that I was holding. By chance, this light is..... I opened the bag, and when I checked the contents, the high-quality media had completely disappeared. If I’m not mistaken, there were supposed to 500 of them.

“.....Did she just eat everything?” (Zeph)

“Because she became that large, she probably needs to eat that much.....” (Claude)

While Claude held her chin with her hand, she was deducing such.

If she is going to eat that much at once, then won’t I need a substantial amount of money to sustain her eating expenses?

Kyururururu.....

While I was troubled at this new fact, I heard the sound of a grumbling stomach from Milly’s direction. When everyone noticed that, Milly suppressed her stomach and blushed.

“H.....hey, aren’t you guys hungry?” (Milly)

“Yes. I am starving” (Claude)

“Fufun, I thought you would say that.....so I brought some lunches~!” (Lydia)

I don’t know when she prepared these, but Lydia unwrapped her specially-made lunches.

“Originally I had planned to bring these for lunch when we went hunting, but I had completely forgotten about them”

Lydia stuck out her tongue.

“Let’s dig i-n♪” (Milly)

“Let us dig in” (Claude)

“Go ahead” (Lydia)

“Well, then, let’s eat up” (Zeph)

As I continued to fill my mouth with Lydia’s lunch, I happily munched down. I’m glad I was able to protect everyone from Grain. I felt that way from the bottom of my heart.

CHAPTER 83

LYDIA CAPTURED, PART 1

“The Dark Wraith is still roaming about Wanaruta City Ruins. We had better not go near that place anytime soon”

Milly nods her head side to side.

The three of them understood how dangerous the Dark Wraith was, their expressions were serious.

Several days after that, while healing from the battle with Grain, they searched for a new hunting ground.

Though, because there weren’t any good hunting grounds in the area surrounding Wanaruta City Ruins, they were forced to undertake a great migration.

“Since we are in need of some good equipment, I think we should leave here and go back to the capital. What do you think?”

In the capital there are tons of different stores lined up, and what we have here cannot compare to the variety of items that are there.

What’s more, the Wizard’s Society Headquarters is there.

I have mastered roughly all of the magic currently available to the public, but the amount of magic that Milly has acquired is fairly minimal.

It’s also a good environment for Milly to learn magic.

Also, Claude’s shield was broken and I’d promised to buy her a new one.

“The Capital? I’ve never been there, you know.”

“I lived there a long time ago!”

Me too, Milly affirmed, raising her hand.

Come to think of it, Milly's father was the awesome mage who developed Scout Scope.

If he's the great mage, it's also no wonder that she once lived in the capital.

The two of them were relatively eager, but Lydia seemed a little torn.

"The Capital...huh? That's pretty far, isn't it... I guess, since my shop and dad are over here so..."

"Won't you come with us?"

"I really want to go, but..."

With a troubled expression, Lydia smiled back as Milly made a sad face.

"Yeah...I'm concerned about my father after all,I mean, if a pretty shop girl such as myself left, and since that old man is doing business alone, won't he go out of business before long?"

"It seems that your dad was managing before you were born, Lydia, and it's not like you can never ever go back, right?"

"That's true...but still..."

I can understand her reservations, but it's surprising that she would be worried now.

The always-indifferent Lydia seemed panicked.

Lydia leaving at this point would totally disrupt the balance of the team, and everyone would be sad about that.

Even I would be bothered by Lydia leaving.

Of course, there's nothing we can do if she stays behind, but it also seems as if Lydia wants to go with us too.

There's no getting around it, I have to help figure this out.

"...understood. Why don't we persuade your dad?"

When he said that Lydia stood up flustered.

"You...you can't do that! My dad is extremely scary!"

"Oh? He's not an easy-going guy?"

"Umm...well actually he's usually a nice dad, but...."

In our confusion, Lydia begins to explain the situation.

According to her story, a while ago Lydia apparently became an adventurer and planned to leave home, and then her father, who was opposed, said to her 【If you have become strong enough to beat me you can go】 .

Lydia, who accepted that demand, battled her father but, as usual her strength was no match for him, and it seemed as if her arms and legs wouldn't perform.

That isn't all of it, but she feels like she would be no match in battle.

"Wouldn't it be good if you could fight using my enhanced magic? If you strengthen your speed and offensive abilities, I think you would be able to win"

"There's no way! I won't win even if I do that! Nope~ he's like a god of war..."

Lydia and I are training together practically every day and even if I enhanced myself using the magic I don't feel like I could beat her even with the added help. I should probably consider her father to be in this kind of level when compared to her.

"Do you think that I will ever be able to beat my father? Zeph-chi?"

"Hmm.... you're not alone anymore, Lydia. Don't you have our guild? It depends on whether we can convince your dad but"

"Yeah~ but I really think it's not possible"

"He won't even try to talk to me ? Maybe I could manage somehow in a way you don't expect!"

"Mnn~...If you go as far as saying that then..."

Lydia reluctantly gave in. She's absolutely terrified of her father. I've heard that a parent who protects a child shows tremendous strength, but should she really be that scared?

Claude, who was driven out of her home around the age of 10, and Milly who lost her parents at a young age, were perplexed. I was the only one who left home willingly. At any rate, I will try to talk to him.

We go to Lydia's house, and upon entering we saw the figure of her father cheerfully serving customers. Inside the store was bustling, and compared to the time when Lydia was there, the number of patrons hadn't changed.

By the look of things, even if Lydia wasn't here, I don't think the shop would go bankrupt any time soon... When her father's eyes met hers, a broad smile with white teeth appeared. He's the typical happy father.

"Welcome! Hello, well isn't it Zeph-kun, Milly-chan, and Claude-chan! What's going on? Need to restore some weapons or something?"

Like a typical merchant that was good at selling goods, his voice could be heard from far away. Sometimes he'd fought with Lydia, but even with this physique he could easily keep up with Lydia's speed.

"Actually.....Dad, I want to talk to you about something..."

"Oh, that's quite unexpected. Ah! Did you want a discount for everyone goods and negotiate a price?!"

"No, that's not it..."

"Well then, is it about armor? As you know, this is a weapons shop. You know we don't have great armor, don't you?"

"Aha ha (awkward laughter).....Like I said that's not..."

Lydia stammered. She was truly afraid of her dad.

Sheesh, she's really hopeless. Without hesitation, her dad came over and looked right at me. Our eyes met, and I had to look straight up, he was that tall.

"The truth is, I was thinking about moving our base to the capital. Would you mind if we wanted to bring Lydia along?"

And with my brief comment, the atmosphere changed in an instant. Lydia had a shocked expression, she was astonished, but anyhow it was something that couldn't go unsaid. However, I understood why Lydia had been afraid of her father up to that point. Claude and Milly, completely taking in the aura that Lydia's father was putting off, felt totally insignificant.

"Zeph-kun, to be honest I have a really good impression of you but you know..... Those words you just spoke, I will pretend that I have not heard them, alright?"

Lydia's dad smiled at the last moment, but his expression was a bit stiff.

Nevertheless, I had no plans to back down.

"Being over protective and overly doting as a parent can be unbeneficial you know? Wouldn't it be better to let her go on an adventure?"

"The end result of letting her travel, if Lydia were to die, are you, Zeph-kun, willing to take responsibility?"

"If that happens, then I will likely be dead as well. Until then, I will protect her with all my might."

"Even if you die, Lydia can't come back home."

It's useless. The conversation isn't going as planned.

I mean it was true that Lydia has been in danger multiple times and been exposed to many perils, but up until now she hasn't died.

"If you want to force the matter, then you can do is if you are able to defeat me"

For some reason or another, it ended up going in the direction where I had to defeat her father. Why has it come to this I wonder? No the reason that he is doing this is because as a father he truly worries for Lydia. I should be considerate of her father's feelings I suppose?

"...Understood. That's fine."

“Zeph-chi?!”

“Well...In that case I will keep Lydia with me. Defeat me, and you can take Lydia away.”

“Hyahh!?”

When he said that, he picked Lydia up and put her over his shoulder.

“Zeph-chi~”

Lydia miserably raised her voice. It sounded as if she'd lost hope. I have no choice but to act.

“It's going to be okay. Without fail, I'll show you that I will win.”

When I said that, Lydia's father glared at me with sharp eyes.

“Once the shop closes, let's fight anytime.”

“In that case, I will come back after. Just you wait.”

Once I said that I left Lydia's house.

CHAPTER 84

LYDIA CAPTURED, PART 2

“What the heck were you thinking!?”

On the way back from Lydia’s home, Milly’s shout caused people walking by to turn around.

“Weren’t you just going to talk!? Why did it naturally turn into a duel!? And on top of that, why was Lydia taken away!?”

“...But isn’t this like a duel to rescue a captured princess? ... It’s fine.”

Right beside Milly, who was raising her voice, there was Claude, who for some reason was fascinated with this aspect.

“Now then Milly, wait. I won’t accept a match if I don’t have any chances of winning. Didn’t we talk about how Ain leveled up and got stronger?” (Zeph)

“Now that you mention it, that’s true. But is Ain-chan that strong?” (Milly)

“With Divine Sword Ainbelle, I can use quadruple magic. That is certainly powerful”

Aye.

If I were to strengthen speed enhancement magic four-fold, then surely even if it’s the father, he won’t be able to catch me.

“Uu... I too want to hurry up and use Summon Servant... Just a little bit more then I think I can use it...”

“Just letting you know, because in the Divine Sword form I get real~ly hungry, so I leave that part to you”

Ain talked in a voice that only we could hear. If I’m not mistaken, at that time, she completely ate 500 high-quality media that each cost 1000 rupees. A grand total of 500,000 rupees. That amount is equal to a whole week’s worth of hunting. It’s not that

I won't be able to use her, but I probably won't be able to abuse the power.

".....Well, do you think you can use it this time?"

But a whole week's worth of hunting..... But for Lydia's sake, it can't be helped. If her father is going that far to cut the tanker, then it would be stupid of me to think that I can hold back.

"Her father is definitely strong, but if it's three vs. one, then it'll probably work out"

When I said that to the other two, they turned and looked at me suspiciously.

"What the heck are you saying?! Zeph is going to be fighting by himself! If you're a man, then you have to take responsibility for your own actions!" (Milly)

"That's right! Zeph-kun will fight by himself, and if he doesn't exert himself to him, then it's pointless!" (Claude)

While their eyes were sparkling, they complained about me.

What are they getting so excited for?

"Oi Oi, winning would be more reliable if the three of us fought."

"No good! This is an issue where you must fight by yourself!" (Milly)

"That's right! If Zeph-kun doesn't fight 1 on 1, then it's pointless!" (Claude)

I was overpowered by their fierce attack.

Why are they getting so worked up?

...It can't be helped, looks like I must do it myself.

(The old man is having a hard time) Ain spoke, trying to comfort me.

Just saying, Ain, but aren't you also someone who is stuck in the middle of this hard time.

When it was the store's closing time, I went to Lydia's store and by that time, there

were no longer customers. Well, that's a given. With her father's imposing stance behind the counter, the sense of intimidation was relentlessly circulating around.

It's at the level where if you were just a normal person, you would immediately leave if you saw his figure. Last time when I checked Scout Scope on him, her father doesn't have any magical power. Is this ambition or fighting spirit? ...Either way, it's something of that sort.

As an adventure who specialized in dexterity, there are groups of those types that can clad themselves in that kind of aura. When I check on Scout Scope, her father's level was 90.

It's probable that when he was around 50 years old, he retired from hunting. Stopping around that level is not that rare. Still, it was at the extent that Lydia was afraid. I probably have to challenge him with all my power. Her father noticed me, and he easily jumped over the counter and landed in front of me. The floor shook from the thump, and Milly and Claude recoiled a little.

"You came, Zeph-kun. Well, let's do this right now."

"I understand. ...By the way, I don't really see Lydia anywhere."

"Aah, she's locked in her room. If Zeph-kun wins, I intend to hand her over."

Oi Oi, what a dangerous thing. Aren't you concerned that Lydia might escape? Anyway, I just need to focus on winning this. I was led by her father to the backyard where Lydia and I always trained.

When we moved away from each other a little and took our stances, I saw and understood her father's strength. Even though Lydia's stance has no useless points, her father's even more flawless in his stance. Usually when I trained with Lydia, I always clad myself with Magenta Coat and fight, but even then I was still at a disadvantage.

(This doesn't look easy to win if I were to go without Ain's help)

(Food~! FOOD~!)

Inside my head, I heard Ain's voice that had no sense of tension, and responded.

(Eat as much as you like, Ain!)

(Waai!)

When I thrust my hand inside the bag, the high grade media I bought disappeared, all consumed in an instant. I cast Summon Servant, and Ain appeared in her Divine Sword form. From the beginning, should I reveal this trump card?

“Oh, you will use a sword? I will be fighting with my bare hands, you know.”

“Well even if you say that, I will still be using this sword”

I said that and brought forth fire from the palm of my hand. If my opponent was a normal human, elementary magic would be sufficient, but this is a situation where I will need to directly hit a trained adventurer with middle-class magic until I can finally overcome my battle incapability.

Though hitting Lydia with magic was extremely difficult. And her father is someone who mastered even higher levels of combat. However, if I were able to use four-fold strengthening magic.....

I used Time Square and cast speed enhancement magic Black Boots twice on Divine Sword Ainbelle. I cast Time Square at the same time I brought the sword down sideways.

And with imperfect timing, I once again cast Black Boots twice.

“Black Boots, Square!”

The result of the four-fold cast was, I reasoned, a 16-fold increase. Done correctly, I can move my body to the point where even I’m surprised by how lightly my body moves as intended.

“Mu!?”

Her father opened his eyes widely. He saw from my movements that my conditions have clearly changed. Looks like this will work. When I cast Summon Servant and Ainbelle disappeared, I had half of my magical power left. Her father looks like his attacks are powerful, and if I were to be hit with that, I probably won’t get away lightly.

“Protector of the earth, clad this body and become the armor to protect me”

“Safe Protection!”

With this, I probably can take a hit. Her father once again saw this change. Looks like he's giving me the first move.

(For the time being, I'll try going for it....!)

I lightly kicked off the ground with my feet and headed towards her father. After the feeling of flying quickly, my body gave off a creaking sound. The burden on my body is not something to be taken lightly. I don't think I can move with all my power if I'm in this kind of condition...!

(I need to finish this quickly!)

I cut through the air and moved in an instant in front of her father's face. Her father looked like he was going to grab my body with his right hand, but I smoothly escaped and went around to his back. In that moment, I cast Red Crash towards that huge back.

“You're naïve.”

The same time I heard her father's voice, I felt a strong impact on my guts and I flew into the ai

CHAPTER 85

LYDIA CAPTURED, CONCLUSION

My consciousness was about to be blown away.

Was I caught the instant I had cast my magic?

I clenched my teeth so that the shock of the impact wouldn't blow away my consciousness.

Since I had cast Safe Protection beforehand, the damage wasn't that great, but if I were to receive it directly, I wouldn't have been as lucky.

As soon as I touched the ground, I stepped back and once again cast Safe Protection upon myself.

Her father didn't seem like he intended to attack from the other side, so I concluded that a long chant posed no problem.

"What's wrong? I can't hand over Lydia if you're only at that level."

He said that and beckoned me toward him from the other side.

How am I supposed to deal with his speed?

Nonetheless, if he shows even higher speed, than the burden on my body will be too much.

While I was meditating, I was surrounded by thoughts, but it seemed like I wouldn't have any chance winning in close combat.

I'll try to mix magic here.

While running across, I cast Blue Bullet, and fired several tens of water balls to assault the father.

Each of the water balls' hits were synchronized with the movements of Lydia's father,

and yet he narrowly dodged them all.

How does such a huge body move like that?

“Red Sphere, Lock”

I predicted where his movements would land, and laid a Red Sphere.

However, at the moment of the orb of fire’s impact, he had brandished his arms.

“Haa!”

He knocked it back with all of the strength he possessed.

His fist broke through the flame and the ball was shattered right down the middle, completely disappearing.

His arm was a little burnt but there didn’t seem to be much damage.

Oi oi, breaking magic with the law of physics, isn’t that absurd?

I have seen skilled adventures who used a weapon to clear away magic, but this was the first time I saw someone do it with their bare hands!

I have been found out. I’m certain of it. Lydia’s father noticed me hiding in the shadow of the flickering ruins of the flaming Red Ball. It’s too late. In this moment, he is about to kick this area.

(Time Square!)

In an instant, time was suspended. I thrust my arm to his kick. I was lucky I made it with the timing of the kick. While I was being impressed, I chanted Sleep Code. The time suspension canceled, and his eyes became blank.

Sleep Code: a magic to forcibly bestow a sleep condition.

Typically, with this magic, you wouldn’t receive any effects unless at point-blank range, the person affected was looking at the caster’s eyes and hearing the caster’s chant. However, if the spell is cast against a person who doesn’t have any magical power, then it is certain that the person will fall into a sleeping state.

There are many weak points, but if I use Time Square, it's possible to use this spell during actual combat.

While I collided with the wall towards which I was kicked, her father fell on his knees almost simultaneously.

When I pulled out my head, which was buried in the wall, fragments of the wall lightly fell around me.

“It’s Zeph’s win~!”

Milly raised one hand and proclaimed my victory.

“Iyaa! I lost! I lost! As expected of Zeph-kun, the man I anticipated. If it’s you, then I can entrust Lydia’s safety to you with peace of mind!”

Her father’s good mood was apparent. He was laughing lively. *Gahaha*

What?! I thought he didn’t want Lydia to go at any cost, but because I won, he was easily sending her out?

I don’t understand this guy.

“She’s in the room on the second floor, so do whatever you’d like. I won’t mind.”

“We’ll be waiting downstairs.”

Her father showed me a face with unknown meaning behind it. Although I had questions, I climbed up to the second floor and knocked on the door that seemed to be Lydia’s.

“Are you there, Lydia? I beat your dad. He has given you his permission to go to the capital.”

“Eh, you beat my dad!? For real!?”

“Aah, it’s just as you said. He really was strong.”

He was a formidable opponent. If I hadn’t strengthened my speed four-fold, I probably would not have been successful.

“Well now, what’s with standing around talking through the door? Can I come in? Lydia?”

“Waa! No No NO! You still can’t enter, no~!”

I could hear a noise from inside the room.

“What? Are you putting your room in order?”

“You’re wrong, but... Uh~... It’s fine... Enter.”

Lydia’s voice sounded like she had somewhat given up.

Which reminds me, her father did say that he had Lydia locked up, but is this related to that?

I opened the door without turning the key. Could it be that she’s tied up?

I opened the door and entered Lydia’s room. There was Lydia’s figure in the corner of the room, wrapped up in the futon and crouching.

Well, it’s not exactly a particularly strange state to be in.

Lydia looked at me with a troubled face, and laughed.

“Th... thanks for coming to rescue me...”

“Of course I would. You’re our comrade after all.”

“Zeph-chi...”

“Hey, let’s go.”

“It’s... it’s no good! I’ll go afterwards, ok?”

When I approached Lydia after she said that, her face was bright red for some reason. She quickly rejected me.

“What could it possibly be?”

“Don’t worry! I’ll come laterr~”

“What are you so embarrassed about? It’s fine, so come on.”

“Wai...Kyaaaa!?”

When I grabbed Lydia’s futon and forcibly pulled it up, Lydia instantly closed her eyes in resignation.

What came out after pulling off the futon was Lydia, wearing a pure white dress.

The dress had a long skirt arranged with shining silver ornaments. Around her neck hung a jeweled necklace.

Where did she get the appearance of a princess?

I was captivated by Lydia, who usually dressed in a totally different way.

“... It’s weird, right? That’s why I didn’t want to be seen like this. Dad... made me wear it...”

Lydia turned bright red as she muttered these words.

“No, No. It’s not that strange. Rather, it looks good on you. You’re beautiful, Lydia.”

“...Really?”

Lydia looked like she doubted my fascination with her. She continued to stare at me.

Perhaps I sounded like I was lying, because Lydia seemed suspicious.

“I’m not lying.” (Zeph)

“Muu...” (Lydia)

As she wasn’t used to being told such, Lydia was still doubtful. She covered her chest with her hand and turned to the side to avoid looking in front of herself. Is simply wearing clothes that you usually don’t wear that embarrassing?

However, she slowly became a little more accustomed to the idea and sat on the bed.

“My dad; He said that since Zeph-chi would come to rescue me, I needed to change my clothes and wait in my room just like a captured princess would wait for her prince...”

I began thinking back on what her father was saying before that I hadn’t understood. This is probably what her father was saying.

“Your father is surprisingly romantic, huh?”

“Aahaha! Maybe that’s true. He seems like he has a splendid romantic side. My mother died a long time ago, but he never chose to remarry.”

While that may be true, making Lydia dress this way and locking her up is extremely bothersome.

“Still, I was watching Zeph-chi’s fight from up here, but I think I understand the sentiment. I’m... a little moved. It’s a joyful thing; a boy coming to rescue me.”

“Don’t worry about it. Rescuing a comrade is to be expected.”

“... Yeah, Zeph-chi is always like that.”

I was a little embarrassed by Lydia’s modest words.

In order to hide my embarrassment, I turned my back toward her.

“Come on, let’s hurry up and go! I said that everyone’s waiting.”

“That’s true. Ah, Zeph-chi, wait!”

I turned around when Lydia called out, and felt a soft sensation on my lips.

Right before my eyes was Lydia bending down to match my height.

“...Thanks!”

Lydia smiled sweetly as she thanked me, and went down the stairs.

Continuing with the story, while everyone was making fun of Lydia’s charming figure, her father brought me to an inner room and bowed his head.

"I entrust Lydia to you, Zeph-kun! She has an irresponsible side to her, but she's a good daughter."

"I know, I'll definitely protect Lydia, so rest assured."

"I thought you would say so!"

Gahaha Her father laughed heartily.

Regardless of his antics, he's a good person.

"By the way Zeph-kun, I wouldn't mind if you called me 'Dad.'"

"...I'll consider it."

Upon my reply, his giant hand slapped my back.



CHAPTER 86

DRIVING A BARGAIN

“Hey everyone~! Hurry it up~!”

Obtaining her father’s permission to travel, Lydia was waiting in front of our inn waving her hands with enthusiasm.

She was wearing a dress and it was apparently quite popular in this area but she soon became embarrassed and changed into her regular clothes.

It was her usual short shirt and hotpants.

honestly, isn’t this get-up way more embarrassing than the dress?

Comparing their degree of skin exposure.

“We’re still preparing right now! We’ll be done soon!”

“Shall I give a lending hand~?”

“It’s fine!”

I answered Lydia and turned towards my room where Milly and Claude were preparing for departure.

“Lydia’s waiting for us. So let’s try to finish up quickly”

“I’ve finished just now”

“W....wait a minute! There’s still so many things I’ve yet to pack.....”

Collecting her luggage Claude was finished packing, whereas on the other side Milly was still packing various articles of clothing and some objects which could not be discerned.

Even if you were to sell some of those objects, they were things which wouldn’t amount to a huge sum of money, they were the type of bargain items you would get

from a cheap item shop.

There was also some really old stuff that I gave her before tumbling out of her luggage.

It would seem that Milly had one of those personalities that found it difficult to throw stuff away.

“Geez, how long are you going to keep stuff like this around..... Isn’t fine if you just throw them away?”

By chance I helped her pick up one of her rare-junk stuff from the ground.

“Waaa no no! It’s not good to throw stuff away okay!”

Saying that Milly was throwing a tantrum.

“These things are the memories of the adventures with you guys, so I can’t throw them away.....”

“Milly-san.....”

Although they may seem like rubbish items, to Milly I guess they were precious things?

I suppose that’s why she is unable to throw them away.

“However, it’s still not good”

“I also agree. Because the issue is different here”

Saying that I took Milly’s bag from her hand.

“Ah——!?”

“This thing and this and that we don’t need them”

“My bag still has empty space in it, how about we put some in here?”

“Well my bag also doesn’t have much stuff in it. Let’s just sell it at a general store later. It’s probably only going to worth 1 rupi though.”

“Then maybe we don’t need to throw it away.....?”

““Not allowed”“

Both Claude and I instantly spoke at the same time.

“Lydia’s been waiting for us for so long, let’s hurry up and go?”

“That’s true”

Both Claude and I opened up Milly’s bag and placed some of the goods in our bags to sort out the stuff.

Truly her bag was filled with garbage stuff.

“Uuuu..... You guys are both so meannn....”

“This is because you never clean up your things”

Claude was saying something like a mother would to her daughter.

Well as for me, even when I was living at home, my room was pretty messy as well so I can’t really speak for others.

Milly was displaying a tearful expression so I took her hands and placed them against her heart.

“From here on out, we will be making many more memories right? If every time we make a memory you need to place the object in a storage it will never be enough. Therefore, what is truly important are the things placed within here”

“Zeph.....”

“Umm..... Lydia-san is still waiting for us outside guys...”

Claude was packing things up alone as she interrupted our moment, so both Milly and I also returned to work.

“You’ve taken care of us landlady”

“Thank you for taking care of us till now”

“We'll come again okay! Landlady♪”

After giving a hearty farewell to the landlady who was the owner of this inn all three of us left this inn that we lived in for quite a long time.

Was there at least half a year that we stayed in this inn?

When I started thinking about these things I became deeply emotional.

“By the way, how are we planning on travelling all the way to the capital?”

“As expected will we be going on a ship?”

“Well I think we probably will use a ship. Though it may certainly be the fastest method, ships charge a lot of money. Claude, do we have a lot of money?”

“let's see.... if we were to buy tickets for everyone, I think that almost all our money will be gone”

Well this is to be expected.

Well we made some money by hunting for the rare items, but going on this trip will be a considerable blow to my resources.

“Fufufu, If you are talking about money, shouldn't you ask big sister over here? Zeph-chi”

Lydia was full of confidence as she puffed out her chest.

The person who managed our money for common use was Claude, but each of us also had money that we made ourselves.

As for Milly and I, the both of us used our money sparingly for the bare minimum equipment, but then we spent the majority of our money on the high-level mediums, Lydia on the other hand would resale old goods and also sell weapon materials to make money.

“What? Are you going to help us out?”

"Ahahah, that's not the way to ask is it? I'm very particular when it comes to money. Even though it's Zeph-chi I'm not planning on spoiling him"

"Does this mean that..... you have some sort of plan?"

"Well just wait and see~♪"

After saying that we followed the proud Lydia and started walking to the harbour.

"Wassup~! Uncle are you doing well~?"

"Ohhh if it isn't Lydia-chan! I heard that you were going on a trip but for you to come and see me means that it's for real isn't it. I'm going to be so lonely over here"

It seems that Lydia going on a trip had already spread around.

As expected of a merchant, they have really sharp ears.

"Un! Therefore I decided to come to the best uncle to purchase the tickets!"

"I'm moved you would say such a thing, thank you Lydia-chan!"

this middle aged man was getting teary eyed as he used his thick arms to wipe away the tears.

At first glance, anyone would think that he was getting emotional due to Lydia planning on leaving, however the tension in the air was a little strained somehow.

Milly didn't feel anything at all, but Claude also seemed to have sensed something going on.

Suddenly the look in Lydia's face changed, as she leaned against the counter.

".....However, the thing is uncle, the ticket of the ship is too high for us and we cannot afford it. Do you think that you could give us a 50 percent discount♪?"

"Oi oi, if I were to reduce it by that much, I wouldn't be able to make a living! Even though it's Lydia-chan asking me, this much is too much"

"40 percent! What do you say?"

“10 percent!”

The man was resolute in his stance as he declares a lowered discount, but Lydia continued to press her body against the counter.

Oioi, Lydia's breasts which were slowing pressing on top of the counter is being ravished by this old man's eyes.

What an ero old man.

“20 percent, this is my limit. Although it's bad of me, I also need to protect my family”

“Muuu.....”

Even though he had this lewd look on his face as he ogled Lydia, he still did not break and give her a bigger discount.

It seems his mentality is pretty strong.

Or more like, for someone like me if I were to get a 20 percent discount, it would already be very amazing.

“.....I'm going to go meet my family”

Before anyone knew it Claude was standing beside Lydia.

Both Lydia and the ticket seller old man were very surprised at the new intruder.

“My family is very poor, because they were unable to feed everyone in the house, I was driven out when I was small. but I cannot forget about my family..... After I've become this big, I want to go and meet them again”

Claude's eyes were a little moist as she gave a puppy-eyed glance towards the man.

“but I don't have any money..... Please! even if it's just a little, please lend me some strength!”

Along with her words, Claude grabbed on to the old man's hands.

Slightly giving off her tears, Claude was looking at the man with a serious and pleading

gaze. Even the old man's eyes started to get teary.

Even Lydia was impressed at Claude's acting skills.

".....Alright I understand, just for you guys, I will be willing to take 30 percent off, how about it?"

"I really want to pay back my family..... and give them as much money as possible so that they will be able to live a better life....."

"Alright I understand, I will do a 50 percent discount okay?! You better treasure your family okay! damn it!"

"Thank you so much. I will forever remember this favour"

With teary eyes, the old man takes out four tickets, and after saying her thanks Claude pays the money.

Lydia seems to use her seductive techniques to obtain things whereas Claude persuades people by using her tears.

They are both indescribably reliable.

By the way the leader of our group (Milly), since Lydia started bargaining she has rested her head against my back and was already fast asleep drifting off into her merry land of dreams.



CHAPTER 87

SHIP

All preparations were finished for departure the ship lifted its anchor from the port and embarked on its journey.

The ship we boarded was a large cargo ship. As we drifted further away, looking back at the town I could see small silhouettes of people getting even smaller.

“Be careful on the trip! Take care!”

“I got it already! Father don’t forget to eat more rice okay!”

Lydia was exchanging her goodbyes with her father.

Not only that.

Even the inn landlady, the clerk that Claude visited when she bought her clothes, Claire-sensei and even Azelia all came to see us off.

Milly and Claude was waving their hands energetically towards them.

Somehow I feel a little embarrassed.

“We will definitely return here some other time okay!”

With a large shout of her voice Milly leaned her waist off the edge of the ship and sensing that she might slip into the ocean, I quickly grabbed on to her waist.

The ship that set sail was rapidly leaving the shore and the town of Beruta became tiny like the size of a dot.

A little cold sea breeze gently brushed against my cheeks.

“Haachoo!”

Milly was looking in the direction of the town for quite a long time. She let out a small sneeze.

"It gets cold out here. Shall we go inside the room?"

"That's true"

When we left the deck area and climbed down a set of stairs into a room, the only thing inside of the room were four small beds, it was a really simple room.

"Nn~ if it's this small.... then my feet will hang out of the bed"

Lydia had a big body she needed to bend her head down so that it didn't touch the ceiling and she was looking at the small bed.

"Hey! Let's take a look around the ship!"

"I will accompany you"

"I'm feeling a little seasick so I'll pass"

"I will also decline"

"Then, Claude let's go♪"

Milly grabbed on to Claude's hands, opening the door she started to run excitedly.

"Geez, she really acts like a child"

From behind Ain's voice suddenly resounded and from within a sparkle of light she appeared.

"Aren't you also just a kid?"

"I'm definitely not a child desu~!"

After saying that, Ain stuck out her tongue with all her strength.

That's definitely acting like a child... Even just judging her from that gesture.

"Yeah yeah, our little Ain-chan has grown up hasn't she♪"

Lydia was trying to pat Ain's head but Ain prevented Lydia from touching her.

Lydia was surprised and Ain turned a sharp gaze towards her.

If I remember correctly Ain was severely groped by Lydia and she did not really know how to deal with Lydia.

Now that she's grown up, I suppose she was now baring her fangs at Lydia?

"Lydia"

"W....what?"

Without hesitation Ain was drawing closer to Lydia and Lydia stepped back a little.

Oi oi, don't just start a fight.

I was becoming uneasy and watched Ain closely in case she started something, suddenly she thrust out her hand towards Lydia. Inside of her small hand there was the small rapier that Lydia had made for her.

This was also the rapier that stabbed Grain's eye and provided me a chance to perform a counter attack.

".....Thank you, Lydia"

Blushing while averting her gaze, Ain gave Lydia her thanks. Lydia turned to look at Ain with surprise.

"Because of this I was able to help grandpa..... and protect everyone. It's all thanks to Lydia..... so thank you"

"Ain-chan....."

Lydia rushed towards Ain who was averting her gaze and gave her a big hug.

And just like that Ain was thrown into the bed.

"Ain-chan acting like a tsundere is also so cuteee~"

"Wait..... Heyy let me go! baka!"

“Comee on~ just think of this as my rewardd♪”

Embracing Ain, Lydia pushed Ain’s face into her breasts.

Ain’s was struggling as her wings flapped frantically.

However soon, the flapping of her wings stopped and she became particles of light as she disappeared.

“Owaah!?”

Without any change, Lydia fell face first into her pillow and she was lying face down.

Because Ain was now able to materialize and dematerialize whenever she pleased, it seems that she is now able to avoid Lydia’s ecchi harassment.

Looking at how regretful Lydia seemed I couldn’t help but let out a smile.

“We’re back”

“Guys, I think it’s time to eat soon”

After a little time passes, the two people who came back from their exploration of the ship came to get us to go to the dining room. There weren’t many passengers and there was actually more sailors on this ship.

There is probably a lot of people eating in their own cabin rooms.

The content of our meals mainly consisted of fresh seafood and the main dish was sea birds. There weren’t really much grain type foods.

Most likely the food here was the things that the sailor caught. There was a lot of strange things and everyone’s eyes were shining.

Even though this will be a relatively short trip that will take about a week. it would seem that the girls would not lose interest in having their meals.

“Even though it may only be a week, we can’t go hunting. Therefore, we should probably do some sort of training”

“I think I want to try practicing magic. In all honestly, I would have preferred to spar with Lydia-san, but inside such a crowded ship there is no way we can fight to our hearts content”

“Alright, then let me teach you♪”

“Please take care of me, Milly-san”

Claude bows her head to Milly.

“In that case, I will go and teach Lydia some magic”

“Eh? Didn’t you tell me that I wouldn’t be able to use magic?”

“While you may not be able to use magic, I can still teach you the theory behind magic and perform some maintenance to your magical power line. While you may not be able to learn any magic, I think that it will be possible for you to at least increase the level of the Growth Spell we learnt”

Comparing the development of her Growth Skill to ours, Lydia’s level of growth is extremely low.

The Growth Skill was a type of spell that increased the rate at which we grew, the higher the level of this ability; the faster a person would grow and get stronger.

Since learning this Growth Skill, two months have elapsed, since then the difference between us is very striking.

Milly’s level was 58.

My level was 54.

Claude’s level was 47.

However, Lydia’s level was still only 35.

The present Lydia was covering this huge gap with her exceptional physical ability and her high offensive ability with the use of her axe. However, the more we proceeded to fight higher levelled opponents there may come a time where she would lose in power if she went against a high levelled foe.

Even if she were bad at magic, if I continued to stimulate her magic power line within her body, there may come a time where she would be able to use magic.

Naturally only a person with enough talent would be able to achieve something like this.

"Alright then, Lydia please take off your clothes immediately and lay yourself on the bed"

"Yeah, yeah, I understand"

When Lydia cheerfully took off her clothing, Milly gave me this sharp look with her eyes.

Claude looked down averting her gaze.

Moreover, Milly started to become red and her body began to tremble.

"Wawawaawa what are you doing Zeph!? Lydia as well!"

"I'm going to directly stimulate the magical power line within Lydia's body and make her body remember the feeling of using magic. Remember the time we needed to teach her the Growth ability, if I'm not mistaken I'm doing the exact same thing like last time..... Perhaps you were asleep the last time I did it?"

"T....Then this time around I will be the one to do it!"

Trembling and shivering all over Milly tightly gripped on my shoulder like a vice, as she proceeded to sit next to Lydia who was lying face down on the bed.

Her trembling fingers approached Lydia's back and she seemed to uneasy.

"For Milly to suddenly try to manipulate someone else's magical power line, isn't it still too early? Listen, just trust this job to me"

"M....Milly-san, you promised to teach me! Please Milly-san, I also want to be a great magician like you one day~!"

Nice follow up, Claude!

Although she seemed very reluctant, Milly started to teach Claude in the ways of using magic.

As for me, I extended my hands towards Lydia's back and concentrating my magical energy on my fingertips, I spread my magical influence across her back as I tried to enlarge her magical power line bit by bit.

"Ahhn"

Lydia raised a sexy voice and caused both Milly and Claude to jump and head-butt each other.

Claude was holding her head in pain.

"Don't let out such a strange voice, Lydia"

"That's cause Zeph-chi is touching me in a weird place"

Stimulating her magical power line seems to be somewhat ticklish for Lydia.

Oh yeah, if I remember correctly, even the time when I was trying to make her learn the Growth Skill, she was twisting and turning her body because she said that it was ticklish.

"Milly and Claude are here with us, so at least hold down your voice"

"Nnn well I'll try my best.....Nnn.... Fuu....."

"Ouch! Milly-san, I'm telling you that hurts!"

Whenever Lydia lets out her voice, Milly also head-butts Claude, therefore I decided that I would just stimulate her magical power line when the other girls were asleep.

An obscene voice keeps leaking out of Lydia in this dark room and the bed shakes time to time along with her voice.

Simultaneously I felt a presence from the bed next to us.

.....It would seem that Claude was still awake....

I told her that I wouldn't do anything to Lydia, but it seems that she doesn't have much confidence in me.

With a bitter smile on my face, I resumed touching Lydia's magical power lines as she would occasionally let out small sweet voices.



CHAPTER 88

FISHING

The next morning, Claude wasn't in the cabin when I woke up.

Lydia and Milly were still sleeping.

She was probably wandering around the ship.

I'm also wide awake now, so shall I go enjoy the outside sea breeze?

When I went up the deck, I saw a flock of Island Seagulls in the skies above.

Island Seagulls

Level 29

Magical Value 2980/2980

Recently whenever I saw a monster, I would instinctively use scout scope in order to examine it. I've rarely fought the Island Seagulls but unexpectedly they seem to be pretty strong monsters.

Although they seldom attack human beings, if they were to attempt to attack they would gather in large groups and unless you had a magician that was capable of dealing with multiple foes, it is difficult to deal with them.

While giving them a side glance I was walking towards the deck, and that was when I saw Claude whose hair was fluttering as the wind flew past her.

“Claude”

When I called out to her, she turned to face me.

“You are quite the early riser aren't you, Zeph-kun?”

“Ahh, normally it is even earlier”

In these past few days, so that I could properly heal my wounds that I sustained from

the battle with Grain, I did not get up in the middle of the night to train.

Besides there wasn't much you could do inside of this ship, it's probably better to train once I reach the capital, right?

"Rather isn't Claude an earlier riser than me?"

"Yesterday, I couldn't..... really get much sleep...."

"Ah..... I'm sorry, I even tried to keep Lydia's voice in check"

"That made it even more..... Eh, nevermind"

Claude lightly slaps her crimson face with a pitter-patter.

Well, the stimulation was probably too strong for her.

To be honest, it was for me as well.

It became a little awkward so I tried to change the topic.

"Claude, you've been practicing magic recently?"

"Yes, right now I was meditating in order to recover some magical energy"

"Let's have a look, perhaps I can help teach a thing or two"

"Are you serious? Hooray!"

Clapping her hands together, Claude jumps up and down joyfully.

"If I am not mistaken, you learned the Blue Gale spell from Milly the other day?"

"Yes. Watching Milly-san use it. It definitely looks really cool"

Yesterday, Claude was reading the Blue Gale scroll that Milly had with her and learned the spell. However, because Claude had a low amount of magical energy, she couldn't really use such a large spell as of yet.

Therefore, Milly opened Claude's magical lines and shared the sensation of using Blue

Gale in order increase the level of the spell so that she could reduce the consumption of magical energy.

While it may take some time, if she did this, it would become possible for a low levelled person to use powerful magic.

Well the basic theory and concept of such is thing is very similar to how I am trying to directly increase the level of Growth Spell within Lydia. However, if the person in question had some talent with magic it was not that difficult to accomplish.

I grabbed Claude's hands and pointed it towards the flock of Island Seagulls.

When I connected with her magical power line, Claude's hands jolted and trembled.

And just like that she was holding her hands out towards the Island Seagulls.

"In that manner, try to cast Blue Gale"

"With my limited magical power, I would not be able to defeat it you know?"

"I'll properly follow you up, so don't worry"

"I understand"

Are there around ten or more of the flock of Island Seagulls?

Holding her hands towards them, she chanted Blue Gale.

Generating a small tornado at sea, she engulfed the Island Seagulls.

When I used scout scope to check I could see that their magical value had decreased by half.

Obviously angry at the sudden attack, the flock of Island Seagulls were headed towards us.

Claude was taking on a fighting stance and I immediately cast my own Blue Gale, in an instant a tornado is created as it devours the Island Seagulls and completely annihilates them.

“Mmm, I feel kind of sorry for them.....”

“You’re too naive, Claude”

“Ehehe, I’m not really.....”

Claude was being bashful.

I wasn’t giving you a praise you know? (*TL: Naïve can also mean sweet in Japanese, so Claude was assuming Zeph called her sweet-hearted*)

“Oi, you bros over there”

A sailor with a huge body build was calling out to us.

Being called a bro, Claude had a slightly displeased expression on her face as she looked at the sailor. However as if he didn’t realize it at all, he had this big lively smile pasted across his face.

“I’m about to go do some fishing, do you bros want to join in? If we catch a good one, we could be in for a wonderful breakfast, what do you say?”

When I looked at the other side of the deck, I could see a bunch of sailors who were fishing.

“Fishing?”

Now that you mentioned it I’ve never gone fishing before.

It seemed like all you had to do was sit down blankly staring at the ocean, so I never thought it looked that interesting.

“I’ve never gone fishing before”

“I’m an expert at fishing, you know?” (Claude Speaking)

“Here you go! I’ve still got two rods left so give it a go”

I received a fishing rod from the sailor and Claude was holding on to the other one.

“All we have to do is throw this in?”

When I was about to swing the rod and sink the hook into the ocean, Claude stopped me.

“If you don’t use any bait, it won’t work you know? Umm excuse me, but could we have some bait please?”

“For sure! it’s over here so just come grab as much as you need”

When he passed us a small wooden box, there was small fish and crustaceans inside of it.

“Put these on the hook and then we will be able to catch a big fish”

Claude seemed like she was familiar with the action as she put the fish bait on the hook of my rod and passed it to me.

“I’m going to throw it in, so please have a look okay?”

Brandishing the rod, she swung in a large motion and throws it out towards the sea.

The hook flies across the sea in a beautiful arc before plopping far into the distance.

“.....Well it’s pretty much like that”

“You’re really good”

“I often used to fish in a stream as a hobby. Besides, when I used to travel alone, there were times where I would go fishing in order to eat”

What an impressive thing.

I tried to learn from Claude as I swung the rod towards the sea.

However, it didn’t reach as far as Claude and it plopped around half way from where Claude’s hook landed.

“Muu, that didn’t go so well”

"It's not just about how far you can throw the hook"

Claude places her pole and leans it against the ship as she took a seat, I also sat beside her.

Leaving it for a little while Claude's thread started to shake, Claude stands up and winds up the spool of thread.

Perhaps the fish she caught was huge? Claude was struggling to reel it in as she used her body to bear the weight.

I grabbed hold of her thin waist and used all my strength to assist her.

"Ku.....Uuuuu!"

Claude's face became red as an expression of agony floated across her face.

Her hands seemed to be slipping and the rod was bending, it seemed as if the thread would break at any moment.

I'm also trying my best to stand firm as I could tell just from Claude's body how big this fish was.

"Teryaaaaaaah!"

Along with a shout Claude hauls up the fishing rod and when she did, a huge fish flutters around in the air, whilst still holding on to Claude I collapsed onto the deck.

You could hear the sound of this huge fish flapping its head.

As expected its quite a big one.

Claude's breathing was a little ragged, and the body I supported was moving up and down for air.

While I was feeling a comfortable sense of accomplishment, Claude moved her body.

"Umm..... Zeph-kun, can you let go of me....?"

Claude shyly looks towards me.

“What? are you embarrassed?”

“Not really but.....Hyaah!?”

When I lifted Claude up from behind, she raised a cute voice.

“Mouu..... Zeph-kun....”

This Claude she's being shy isn't she.

She really makes me want to tease her.

When I looked again, as expected the fish she caught was really big.

It's about half my height.

What a big shot.

“You're really awesome, Claude”

“It's all thanks to Zeph-kun, without your help I don't think I can catch this one myself”

Claude was being bashful and I pat her head. Noticing what happened the Sailors who were fishing gathered around us.

“Ou, that's quite the big shot you've bros got there!”

“You bros had a nice combination effort!”

“You bros seem pretty close with each other!”

Several of the crew members were praising us and Claude had a complex expression on her face before responding.

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CHAPTER 89

PILLOW

Night Time: Inside a dark room Lydia's seductive moans could be heard.

Similar to before, I was manipulating the magical lines in Lydia's body in order to help her increase the level of her Growth Skill. The more that I tinkered my hands across Lydia's magical power lines, the more her body would convulse and cause the bed to creak. The destructive power of such actions was intense and I could feel the presence of Claude who was supposed to be sleeping. It would seem that she had been unable to drift off to sleep again.

Well I guess it's not easy for someone to be able to ignore a sound like this....

Even for me the best I can do is to restrain myself. I've been trying to ask Lydia to keep her voice down, but on the contrary, the action of covering her mouth and the muffled moans makes it indescribably perverted.

In any case, it's not like I can stop helping her half way.

"Nnn....."

Sinking her head into the pillow, Lydia shivers a little.

Woops! My thoughts drifted and this made my hands become clumsy in their movements.

(My bad, Lydia)

(It's alright, you don't have to mind it. But I kind of want to change my posture, do you mind if I move a little?)

(Of course I don't mind it)

I was on top of Lydia's back and I slid down until I reached her thigh area.

Matching my movements, Lydia changed her position from having her head face down

and holding down her mouth, to placing her head in a sideways position.

Her squashed breasts finally had room to breathe and it rose up slightly before submerging itself back into the futon.

Even though she only moved slightly, the destructive power of such actions were very high.

Amitabha amitabha.

To tell you truth, I've already tried to manipulate Lydia's magical power lines a couple of times in the past, however as expected it didn't garner that great a result as Lydia didn't have much magical power to begin with, neither the quality nor quantity would improve all that much.

Nevertheless, when I used scout scope, I could see that now Lydia's Growth Skill had advanced to level 5.

This is still better than doing nothing, so per say.

(I think we can leave it at this for today. If we force it too much, it won't result in anything good)

After I said this, Lydia shut her eyes without responding.

Her breathing became more normal and her chest rises and drops down slowly on the futon.

(Did she fall asleep?)

For some reason or another, it seems that she must have felt pretty good.

I got off Lydia's back in order to stand up and the bed made this huge creaking noise.

Eh, it wouldn't be good if I made a huge noise and woke everyone up.

So that I didn't make any more noises, I slowly creped away from Lydia's bed.

I descended the ladder placed on the side of the bed and slowly lay on my own bed which was located directly below.

(I've been getting used to hunting every single day, so recently when I'm just doing nothing like this, I feel like my body is becoming rusty)

You can say that I've recovered quite well from the wounds I sustained in Grain's fight.

That reminds me, I really wanted to say a couple of parting words to Silverie before I left Beruta Town.

However, I can't even tell where she might be right now.

I can't contact her at all from here.

I groped around my pocket, took out the ring crystal fragment and played with it.

This is a fragment of crystal that is usually created for guilds in order to communicate with each other, if you had this ring, you could receive telepathic communication from the person who possessed the other linked crystal.

However, this particular crystal could not send out any form of communication.

(Since that last time, she hasn't tried to contact me..... As usual she's a 'my own pace' kind of person)

I tucked the crystal fragment back into my pocket and placed both my hands on the back of my head.

Closing my eyes, I let go of my consciousness.

(..... -kun, Zeph-kun..... Are you awake, Zeph-kun)

My body was being shaken, as my consciousness was being restored.

It was Claude's voice.

When I opened my eyes, I could see Claude wearing pyjamas as she held her pillow close to her chest, she was sitting beside my bed.

Her clothes were slipping off her skin, her hair was messy and her face was slightly flushed.

Her breathing was also a little rough.



(Claude....?)

(Uu..... Zeph-kun, I'm sorry but do you have a minute.....?)

(Of course, what's the matter?)

Claude seemed to be troubled by something, so I lifted my body off the bed and invited her to sit next to me.

So that she wouldn't make any noise, Claude tip toes and sits next to me on the bed. Making a loud noise when she sat down she had a panicked expression on her face.

(So, what's wrong?)

(No that is..... I can't go to sleep.....)

Claude was smiling awkwardly while scratching her own head.

Well I kind of predicted it was something like this...

When I turned to look at Claude, she seemed to draw her face closer to mine as if she had determined to do something.

(Um.... That is! I also want to try the thing that you did to Lydia-san! Would that be alright?)

Claude's serious face was really close to mine.

Her beautiful blonde hair was lightly tickling my nose.

I didn't know how to answer her and I ended up just staring at her in silence, it was then that Claude quickly drew back.

(I....I'm sorry..... It's just that I also want to be able to use great magic like both Zeph-kun and Milly-san.....)

Claude was fidgeting her fingers.

Claude's talent for magic is average..... No if I were to compare her to the adventurers that we've come across, I can say that her talent is on the higher end.

However, Claude has her peculiar ability called Screen Point, which is specifically designed to counter mages in return for being able to nullify all magical attacks against her; her talent for magic is reduced.

Therefore, Claude's magical power line is thin and weak.

(I don't mind it I guess it's better to do something about your magical power lines and improve it if possible rather than not trying at all. Although I can't say that the results will be as you desire.....)

(Even if that is the case.....I really want Zeph-kun to do it.....)

Claude mutters in a small voice.

She shared the same vanguard position as Lydia, so perhaps she felt it was unfair?

I plopped my hand on top of Claude's head who was looking down and gave her a gentle pat.

(I understand. Please take off your clothes and lie face down)

(Yes!)

So that I didn't block Claude I stood on the side of the bed. I was looking at her back as she undressed her pyjama's and when she noticed my gaze, she glanced back at me for a second before looking down again. Taking off her coat as well, Claude was covering her breasts before she went to lie face down on my bed.

While she may seem a little young in comparison to Lydia, her body was definitely womanly and feminine.

(Then, here I go)

(Nn.... Yes.....)

Placing my hands on Claude's back I connected with her magical power line.

Claude's back involuntarily shudders, and she quickly buried her face in the pillow in order to mute her voice.

Although I noticed it before, I can see that Claude's back is full of injuries and scars, whenever I ran my fingers across her red scar, she would slightly shake her body.

She must have experienced many hardships....

(.....Is there something wrong?)

(No, nothing's wrong)

I silently caress her magical power line and slowly began to spin it.

In comparison to Lydia, Claude was a lot more patient, even when I am in the middle of tampering with her magical line, her voice is hardly raised.

Even so, she would occasionally tremble and leak out a small voice.

When I continued this process for about 1 hour, even I started to get tired.

(How are you feeling Claude?)

(.....)

(Claude? Oi, Claude!)

(.....Suu.....)

Muu, she's totally passed out.

I think that she told me she didn't get much sleep either yesterday...

I would feel bad if I woke her up here.

Because I didn't have much of a choice, I went to Claude's bed and slid my body into the futon.

Claude's fragrant smell permeates throughout the futon as this smell tickles my nostrils. Somehow it gives me a feeling of calmness and relief.

The moment I shut my eyes, my consciousness fades.

.... As expected..... for two people.... makes you.... really.... ti....re....d.....

I wonder how many hours have passed?

Whilst still in my nap, once again, my body is being shaken.

(.....-kun! Zeph-kun! Please wake up!)

When I opened my eyes, Claude was shaking my body with a desperate look on her face.

Her face was bright red and she was totally teary eyed.

"Ohh..... are you awake Claude?"

“I’m sorry! I’m sorry!”

Claude was bowing repeatedly as she earnestly apologized to me in a low voice.

It would seem that she was really bothered by the fact that she slept in my bed.

Because this was early in the morning, Both Lydia and Milly were still asleep.

After getting out of Claude’s bed I took a nice long stretch.

“I.....I’m going to go wash my face!”

“Claude”

I stopped Claude who was about to leave by calling out to her. When I moved my eyes, Claude also follows my gaze. I was looking at the two pillows on top of my bed.

“The pillow, you left it at my bed you know?”

When she realized this her face became crimson as she trotted quickly towards my bed and grabbed the pillow before she dashed out of the room whilst still hugging the pillow.

Oi oi, you’re still wearing your pyjama’s you know? Claude...

A short while later, Claude returns to the room with the same vigour she left in.

Dashing at the speed of light, she jumps into her own bed, burying her face in the pillow she flaps her legs in the air like a fish.

That pillow... is actually my pillow you know.....? Well it’s really pitiful to attack her when she’s already this down so I think I’ll just stay quiet?

CHAPTER 90

PUNISHMENT GAME

After three days of travelling and being unable to do any real training in such a small cabin, I filled my time by helping Lydia and Claude with practicing magic. I could at least practice martial art forms, but as expected I was quite bored.

Well I was also still recovering my bones and injuries, but for Milly she was especially bored.

“Hey, what do you think of playing some poker to relax?”

Milly takes out a bunch of cards she had in her luggage, and passed it on to everyone.

The cards had four different types of suits, with a number from 1 to 13.

In this game, there was one joker card that was used in order to liven up the game and make things more interesting.

When playing poker first thing is to deal five cards to everyone, and then each person can choose to chuck out as many cards as they don't need.

The next step is to replenish the chucked cards from the deck, then the cards are revealed and the person with the strongest hand wins the game.

From children playing this game to underground casino's, this is a simple and enjoyable game that has spread around.

“Poker? Then, how about we make a rule that the loser of the game must listen to one thing from the winner?”

“Claude, I think that you need to mend that bad habit of always trying to bet”

“I think it's a great idea! Besides it sounds fun♪”

For Lydia, rather than caring about winning or losing, she seemed to be more interested in developing a deeper relationship with everyone.

“Then it’s decided! The last place will have to listen to one thing from the winner♪”

In the end it was decided just like that.

I definitely cannot afford to lose here.

Five cards are distributed amongst us, and I was comparing the expressions on the three girls.

Milly had a happy face. She seems to have gotten strong cards.

Claude hasn’t displayed any change in her expression. She’s unexpectedly quite the schemer, I cannot take her lightly.

Lydia has a face of purely enjoying the game. Whether she wins or loses, as long as she enjoys herself it’s fine, that’s the kind of vibe she’s giving.

If someone plays with that kind of intent, there is not much point trying to ascertain the strength of their hand.

As for my hand, I have two pairs, it is neither strong or weak. I can only assume that the three of them have pretty good hands. Leaving my highest numbered pair, I changed three cards in the hopes of obtaining a better hand, but not a single card hit the mark and I was left with only one pair.

I had an average hand and now it’s become one of the weakest hands.

Umu, well that did not go as planned. I placed my cards face down on the bed and waited for the other three people to finish making their hands.

“Nihiihi♪ Looks like you’ve got a bad hand, Zeph”

“I will leave it up to your imagination”

“Zeph-chi the poker face that you try to put on is actually really cute~”

“He’s the type that isn’t really able to hide his emotions that well ne”

Just when I was thinking that I was the one observing them..... They were actually the ones who were observing my every move.....?

The three of them finished replacing their cards from the deck, and they would either hide the cards by placing them on top of their thighs, or hide them by placing them close to their breasts.

"Just to confirm, the loser will have to listen to the winner right~♪"

Milly was looking at me with a joyful smirk. It seems that she is very confident with her hand.

"Milly-san, I just want to put this out there but, my hand is actually pretty good you know?"

Claude looks at Milly and then right after she looks at me and smiles.

"I don't really care whether I win or lose..... but Zeph-chi your troubled face is making me really interested~"

Even Lydia was looking towards me.

What on earth is this? Have they already decided that my cards will be the lowest ranked?

Did everyone really have that strong a hand?

Having cold sweat dribble down my forehead I was analysing the three girls, that's when the three of them showed the wicked smiles on their faces.

Dammit..... Don't tell me they are going to make me do something weird.....

If it's Claude that wins I know she won't make me do something too crazy, but if it's Lydia or worst of all Milly, things might get dangerous....

If it comes down to it, I think I may be forced to use magic and perform some trickery.....

"Alright! Then allow me, this incompetent Ain-chan to judge the results! I won't allow anyone who cheats kay!"

Ain appears without my permission and says this.

Looking at my direction, she gives me a wink.

Don't tell me, did she read my thoughts or something?

"Ah, I'm sorry Ain-chan. Should we have invited you to play?"

"Don't mind, don't mind, thanks to this, it looks like I will be able to see gramp's flustered expression!"

Ain goes behind me and keeps a watchful eye.

If even Ain is acting like this, then isn't it going to be impossible for me to cheat?

Why is she cornering me even more in this predicament....

"Everyone, are you ready?"

"I'm good"

"Ready anytimee"

"Granpa, are you prepared?"

Everyone was looking towards me.

Eeii, whatever happens, happens.

"Alright then, One, two.....Flip!"

Together with Milly's cheer, everyone opened their cards.

Claude had five cards with the same suit. That's quite the strong hand.

Lydia had two pairs, moreover she had lower rank cards than the one I started with before I replaced my hand. Kuu, if only I didn't change my hand I would have won.....

Milly had the same suit on four cards, and their numbers were consecutively: 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Moreover, her 5th card is a joker. She is able to change the joker into any card she

desires and with this line-up she had one of the strongest hands.

“Yayy! It’s my victory♪”

“Congratulations, Milly-san”

“Nn~ I thought that I was going to be the one with the lowest rank, but that doesn’t seem to be the case”

Milly was raising both her hands up in a declaration of victory, and both Claude and Lydia gave her a big round of applause.

“Lydia, if you envy the person with the lowest rank, I totally don’t mind it if you want to switch with me?”

“I really want to see what kind of unreasonable demand Milly-chan will make Zeph-chi do, because I think that will be entertaining in its own way, so never mind♪”

As expected Lydia is just in this purely for the fun of it.

“Okayy~ Gramps is determined to be the loser so we shall begin our punishment gamee~!”

So that I am unable to run away, Ain was firmly holding my back.

She looked like she was having so much fun.

Is she really my familiar? this punk.

“Well then Milly-san. Please tell us what you want Zeph-kun to do for you”

“Eh? Umm~ lets seee.....Nn ~ what should I make him do~♪”

Milly seemed to be having fun as she pondered.

This is bad. Her face looks like a kid who is about to play a prank on somebody.

As if she suddenly thought of something, she turned to face me.

And approaching me closely she grinned.

“Alright I’ve decided~ Zeph, I want you to.....”

Zuzunn, just as Milly was about to say her next words a big roaring sound shook the ship, and I managed to firmly hold on to Milly who had lost her footing.

Falling down on to me towards the bed, the other two girls seemed to have fallen flat on their bums.

“Wha!?”

“Did we hit into something?”

“Can you stand up, Milly?”

“Y....yeah.....”

While still holding on to Milly, I helped her stand, releasing my hand from her waist, she seemed to be a little wobbly as she staggered to regain her footing.

Even now the ship was continuously shaking.

This isn’t just as simple as the ship being stranded.....

“It may be possible that monsters are attacking the ship”

“No way!?”

“Let’s go outside!”

When we went up to the deck, the crew members of the ship were already fighting with monsters. It had a white and fat body with many tentacles as its limbs, the head looked like a triangular hood. This is a creature that lived in the sea and occasionally attacks passing ships in a group.

They are also known as Squids.

CHAPTER 91

KRAKEN, PART I

“It’s a swarm of squids!”

“All of you that can’t fight go and ask the adventurers on board for help! I ain’t letting this ship go under!!”

“You idiot! If you want to fight, don’t damage the ship!”

One of the sailors used a harpoon to thrust into the squid as he shouted out in a loud voice, he also followed up with a kick to the body of the squid sending it flying away.

Squid

Level 35

Magical Power Level 1356/3940

For the time being, I used Scout Scope on the squid to confirm its stats. The squid is by no means a weak monster, but it seems that the sailors were still capable of handling it.

As expected of these capable seaman.

The deck of the ship was jammed packed with monsters, sailors and adventurers. It seemed that they were getting used to dealing with the swarm of squids as they began to repel the monsters with their spears and clubs.

“We are also going to help them out! Milly, don’t use any large scale magic. If you use magic too carelessly you may sink the ship!”

“Un!” (*TL: Un! = Yes!*)

“Me and Milly will become a pair, Lydia and Claude should be another pair. Be careful of their tentacles”

“Understood!”

“Okay!”

“Zeph you can trust me!”

It's not like I didn't trust her, but if Milly did something unexpectedly she could seriously sink the ship in one go....

Claude and Lydia were going towards the squids.

Blocking Lydia's path was a slimy tentacle that was wriggling about.

However, she dodged the feelers without any problems and using her large ax she swung downwards and cut the white squid right in two.

For a while the tentacle just twitches and convulses but soon after it disappears.

Claude also uses her damaged shield skilfully as she cuts the incoming squid with her sword.

“Claude! Don't depend on your cracked shield too much!”

“Yes! But promise me when we get to the capital, you will buy me a new one kay?!”

She was taking a defensive position in this fight.

Is it too excessive for Claude?

But I really didn't think that we would have a battle on top of the ship.

If I knew this kind of thing would happen, I'd buy her a cheap shield at Beruta Town.

“Zeph, are you going to buy a shield for Claude? I'm so envious~”

“Claude was protecting me when she lost her important shield. To begin with, don't you have plenty of money Milly?”

“That may be true but..... Ah♪ I've decided on what the punishment game for Zeph will be!”

While giggling with a Nihiihi, Milly was smiling.

Is she going to make me buy something for her?

If that's all she wants that should be a pretty easy task.

".....For the time being let's concentrate on the fight. Remember don't aim your spells at the ship"

"Yeahh!"

Replies in a lively manner, Milly shoots out a Black Shot towards the Squid.

The bullet of wind shot from Milly's hand barely grazed the skin of the Squid and it was hardly being damaged.

"Eh??"

"These guys actually have a high amount of natural magical resistance. That's why it won't be that easy to defeat them with basic elementary magic"

I explained to Milly as I fired out my own magic, the Black Sphere towards the Squid.

The whirlpool of wind vacuum was propelled towards the head of the Squid and it gradually sucks it in and tears it to pieces.

The wind gradually settles down and even the corpse of the Squid disappeared.

".....As you can see, it seems that we can defeat the Squid with a single cast of Black Sphere"

"I understand!"

Milly was smiling with her whole face as she nodded towards me, but I felt a little uneasy somehow.

The spheres destructive power is quite high but it was a hard magic to control properly, moreover Milly was mostly used to using large scale magic.

In this kind of ship, it is likely that a strong coating was done so that the ship would be resistant to magic to a certain extent, however if a weak spot like the hull was damaged or chipped, it is inevitable that it will influence the rest of the voyage.

“Black Sphere!”

While I was thinking about these things, Milly had already fired her magic towards the Squid.

The mass of wind flies towards the centre of the demon’s body and slightly scrapes against the deck of the ship, but the majority of it scrapes against the skin of the monster.

After the wind dissipates, the Squid was totally annihilated.

“.....What do you think? Because it was my first time I don’t think I did it that well but...”

“No it’s good enough. Or more like that was quite well done. Milly”

“Y....you really think so....? Ehhehe”

Milly was really shy as I patted her head, she seemed really happy and bashful at the same time.

This girl Milly, even though she’s a little rough on the edges, she really does have a great talent for magic.

The Black Sphere did scrape the deck a little bit but, if it was just this much than the deck would be relatively unharmed.

Other than our party, there was also another set of adventurers fighting on the deck, and soon enough the remaining Squid on the deck began to flee from the ship.

When the last Squid withdraws from the ship, a quietness surrounded the area.

“Did we do it.....?”

“No, not yet. Don’t let your guard down”

Considering how many monsters were coming out to attack us, I’m afraid that this area of the sea has potentially turned into a dungeon.

Because the other adventurers also haven’t shown any expression of relief, the sailors

also understood that it wasn't over just yet.

None of them had started to relax.

"It seems that it has not yet ended"

"Everyone is still very tense. A tough one is coming"

While having this stern expression on their faces, they returned by my side.

Within this tension filled atmosphere one of the adventurers or males on-board of this ship seemed to have spotted something coming from the depths of the sea.

"Oi! It's dangerous!"

One of the sailors had shouted out warning him, and when the man turned around, a huge water column raised up from behind him.

What appeared from within the water column rising up was a white and long tentacle.

It was very large and flexible, and the tip of the tentacle had a suction on it as it wrapped itself around the man and captures him.

"Uwaaaaaaaaaaaaahhh!!"

The man raised desperate scream for help, and whilst the Sailor was reaching out his hands towards the man, there was no way he was going to make it in time.

"Black Sphere!"

I was preparing to use Black Sphere on the large tentacle grabbing on to the man, but Milly beat me to the punch.

After getting hit by Milly's magic, the tentacle that was grabbing the man withdrew itself as it released him towards the ocean.

As he was falling down towards the sea, the man somehow manages to grab hold the edge of the deck. Afterwards, he was profusely bowing himself towards Milly in an obsequious manner as he thanked her over and over.

"Enough with that hurry up and get over here!"

When Milly screamed at the man, he began to walk towards us with an unsteady gait.

However, during the middle of this, the hull began to shake wildly and our balance was thrown off, I quickly embraced Milly's waist as she was about to fall.

"Kyaah!"

"The tentacles are attacking us violently. From here on out it's going to be a crucial moment!"

"That tentacles looked similar to a Squids..... But it was extremely big"

"I heard this story from a sailor that was one of my father's acquaintances. It was the story of a humungous Squid.... I think it was called the Kraken?"

Although I have heard it being mentioned in the past as well, I have never laid my eyes on it. I guess the rumours of its existence was true.

When I used Scout Scope on the huge tentacle I was able to confirm its name.

Kraken

Level 80

Magical Power Level: 582,588 / 585,842

The amount of its magical power level is about two times more than the Sunny Raven boss monster.

If it's like this, I am probably going to be forced to fight it.

However, it seems that there are other people who are also prepared to fight.

Although the Sailors were perplexed at the spectacle before them, they still had their fighting spirits intact.

They had the kind of face that said 'we will protect our own ship by ourselves!'

"Let's do this, for the time being, we need to drive away the rampaging tentacles. Most likely, it is using the suction on its tentacles to attach itself to the hull of the ship. If we

are able to tear off all the tentacles off the ship, then we should at least be able to escape in the worst case scenario. We need to destroy anything that comes our way. Don't get separated from me!"

"Un!"

"I understand!"

Everyone was standing close to me as I used my Summon Servant Spell.

From within the light Ain appeared.

"Did you call for me?"

"Ain, can you scout out the monsters movements from the skies above?"

"Okay!"

Ain flaps her wings, and flies all the way up to the mast of the ship.

Sitting there she looked down towards the sea.

All the sailors who saw Ain all exclaimed 'It's an Angel!' or ' She's going to watch over us!'.

If they knew what she really was, they might get disappointed but, well for now it's raising their morale. Let's not ruin their fantasies.

That kid Ain was also getting cocky as she started to wave her hand towards the Sailors.

Seeing how carefree they were, I could only sigh, at the same time four water columns raised from the sea as it surrounded the ship to attack us.

--So it's going to attack with four at once now?

Fixing my gaze upon one of the tentacles that was approaching us, every one of us was on high alert.

CHAPTER 92

KRAKEN, PART 2

A huge tentacle swings down from the skies. The tentacle is at least as thick as my current stature.

Claude wields her shield and stands in front of everyone, Milly begins to chant her magic. And Lydia stands between the two people in response to their actions.

Waiting for Milly to chant her Black Crash, I also chanted my Time Square.

Time is momentarily stopped and Milly has already launched her spell. I was hoping on combining my spell with her and performing a triple-cast magic, but the timing was totally off.

As expected unless Milly was casting the Blue Gale spell which I was accustomed to seeing, it is quite difficult to get the timing right.

In the midst of time suspension, I combined two of my spells, the Black Sphere and Green Sphere and launched it towards the back of the tentacle.

“Gravity Sphere”

The tentacle was hit with both Milly’s Black Crash from the front and from directly behind a black gravity ball that continuously drew it in.

The tentacle was drawn into the gravity ball getting crushed and flattened.

The moment it came into contact with the tip of the tentacle, my Gravity Sphere started to erase its flesh and soon the tip of the tentacle totally disappeared.

Because it had such a gigantic body, the effectiveness of my spell wasn’t that high...

Nonetheless, I still managed to prevent its attack from succeeding and the Kraken which has just lost the tip of its tentacle brought his feelers back into the sea.

Zuzun! Without a single moment to relax my mind, a ballistic impact attacks the ship.

The other adventurers and the sailors were probably unable to prevent the other three tentacles from attacking the ship, the three other tentacles coiled itself around the hull of the ship.

The hull of the ship was beginning to creak and groan, and although they were trying their hardest to attack, the thick tentacle didn't even budge.

This is looking bad.

The boss's body is composed of strong magic, and with small attacks like that it cannot be destroyed

Even with my Gravity Sphere, the best I could manage was to destroy the tip of its tentacles.

Although it is likely that if I used Ainbell's Divine Sword form, I would easily be able to blast it away, Ain is currently up the mast of the ship scouting around for the situation below, furthermore, when she's in her Divine Sword Form, it uses a large amount of magical energy and requires a high amount of high-quality mediums.

It's not like I didn't want to use it but, I don't think I have enough materials to support her form for very long.

Although there is a risk involved, I may have to...

"Hey Zeph, is it alright if I do that thing?"

Milly was also thinking the same thing as me. 'that thing' that she's referring to is the spell I taught Milly previously, it was the spell Red Zero.

Milly was only proficient with her favourite grand magic spell, the Blue Gale, so in order to expand her repertoire, I taught her this spell whenever I had the time.

Considering that certain monsters were weak against certain attributes, it's probably necessary for me to teach her other types of grand magic, but because Milly insisted on learning this one I reluctantly gave in to her demands.

It is inefficient to just learn grand magic from Blue and Red schools of magic, but well in these types of matters, the most important thing is that the person herself needs to be motivated to learn.

“But do you think you can control it? With Milly’s Red Zero, it is possible that the whole hull of the ship is destroyed”

“I’m telling ya it’s finee♪ Who do you think I am?”

Looking at me with a boastful face, Milly was grinning.

Well to me she looked like a small child that was easily carried away.....

To Milly who was looking at me with sparkling eyes, I could not help but feel a sense of anxiety.

However, in saying that, up until now when push comes to shove, she’s always been a reliable leader.

“.....I’m counting on you”

“Un!”

Milly answers happily.

“Lydia, while Milly is chanting out her grand magic, she will be defenceless. Please cover her back”

“Okay, Milly-chan come over here~. I’ll give you a piggyback ride kay~”

Lydia was beckoning her, and Milly was feeling suspicious.

“.....You wouldn’t do anything weird right?”

“Ahaaha”

“Hey! Please give me a clear answer!”

Milly was raising her voice and Lydia grabbed on to her waist with both her hands and gave Milly a piggyback.

Although Milly was going to object to Lydia’s actions, she stopped herself and just tightly clinged on to Lydia’s neck.

"Lydia, can you quickly head to the edge of the ship from here?"

"Okay!"

Saying that Lydia casually and agilely moves across the shaking ship. Suddenly a large quantity of Squids burst out from the water and into the air as they aimed themselves towards Lydia.

Did the Kraken throw these squids with its tentacle?

Although there was a large amount of tentacles coming towards Lydia's: hands, feet and body. No sooner than when she started to squint her eyes, all the tentacles in the air were falling like raindrops as she cut them all in a single blow.

Seeing all these tentacles falling down from the air in broken pieces like sashimi, the sailors watching this held down their hands between their crotches.

Total decapitation..... I guess I didn't need to worry about her.

Lydia proceeded onwards towards the side of the ship with momentum.

"Milly-chan, is around here good?"

"U-un..... But I think something got in my eye just now...."

"Are you okay?"

Milly was rubbing her eyes and Lydia was quite worried.

Suddenly the tentacles started to move and the ship was rocking and swaying.

"Awawawawa!?"

"Uh-oh"

I braced myself and caught Claude who had lost her balance. Even the seaman who were attacking the tentacles could not help but to stop attacking as the boat was shaking too much.

However, Lydia was not affected in the slightest by the shaking boat, and even though

she was carrying Milly on her back, she didn't even budge.

What an incredible sense of balance...

".....I'm alright, it's starting to feel better"

"Hang on tight okay, Milly-chan"

Milly nods her head, she closes her eyes and began the incantation to the spell.

"God of scarlet magic, I seek the truth in the farthest land of magic, reaching out to you please grant me your strength. Along with my crimson blade destroy our enemies!!"

"Red Zero!"

They were at the edge of the boat and the sharp blade of flames were aimed towards the root of the tentacle to sever it off.

The seawater started to evaporate and the blade of flames was digging itself into the skin of the tentacles with a grinding sound.

Even from where I was standing, I could see the water evaporating from the heat of the magic and steam was going up from the sea water.

When Milly used the Red Zero with her enormous amount of magical power, it boasted an extremely high amount of power.

The scarlet light thins out and disappears from Milly's hand.

And then...

Buchiri the tentacle was severed from its roots, it splashed around one more time before it flew past the deck of the ship and into the water.

Because it fell into the surface of the sea a large column of water rose up and the two remaining tentacles seemed to writhe in pain as they shared the agony of the creature.

"We will also take one out over here! Claude back me up!"

"Understood!"

going towards one of the other tentacles that was raging about, I spread out my palms and chanted out Time Square, I casted Green Crash twice in a row.

“Green Crash Double”

With a severe sonic boom, a ripple spread out from my hands and towards the tentacles that I had my hands on.

The tentacle was getting loose as it slightly released its grip on the ship, I gave it little to no chance to retaliate and casted my Green Crash Double once again.

The tentacle that received an attack in the same exact spot twice in a row, seems like it was going to be ripped to shreds as its body began to warp and bend.

“Now’s the time, Claude!”

“Yes!”

The tentacle let go of the ship and stretched itself to its limits, at this moment, Claude used her sword to cut the base of the tentacle in a single slice.

Having half of its tentacles cut from its roots, the Kraken seemed to writhe in pain.

“Alright!”

“Claude, behind you!”

From above, Ain’s voice of warning could be heard.

When she turned around, the tentacle that was cut by her was actually attacking her from behind.

Claude noticed the warning from Ain but it was already too late, the tentacle wraps itself around Claude’s body.

Although she was trying her hardest to shake it off, the more she struggled, the more the tentacle would strangle her body.

“Guu..... Haaa.....!?”

“Claude!!”

Ain jumps off from the mast, and tries to tear off the tentacle from Claude, but, the powerless Ain was unable to do so. Gradually tightening its grasp Claude’s voice of agony resounded.

The plate mail covering around her body was making creaking and jarring noises

“Claude!”

“Ze....ph-kun.....!”

Looking towards me she stretches out her hands feebly.

Dammit! I’ve already used too much of my magical energy.

I was eating magic recovery medicine as I meditated to regain my mana.

Hearing Claude’s pain filled voice and Ain’s desperate voice, I was trying to calm my flustered mind in order to meditate as fast as possible.

(If I casted a weak tiered spell, I won’t be able to cut the tentacle in one go)

At least half of it..... No even if I only recover 1/3 of my magic it’ll do....!

Pishi Pishi, cracks around Claude’s plate mail was already starting to develop.

Shit, calm down! If I launch a half-assed attack here, it would only take more time to save her!

Claude was also trying her hardest to resist and the sailors were also trying to obstruct the tentacle, but the tentacle only gripped itself harder and was bringing her closer towards the sea.

I’ve recovered my magical energy by about 20 percent, but this is going to be the limit.

“Ain!”

“Ah! I understand!”

Ain flies towards me and when I gripped her hands, a bright light covers my hands and a sword appears in its stead.

“Claude! I’m coming to save you right now!”

Hearing Ain’s anxious voice, Claude tries to avoid making her more worried and even though she was letting out cold sweat she tried her best to show a smile on her face.

“Everyone get out of the way!”

“But....”

“Just hurry up and do it!”

I made all the sailors step back from the tentacle and prepared to strike with the Divine Sword Ainbell.

I don’t have the time to combine four sets of magic together.

Enchanting Red Crash to Ainbell, I swung her down whilst simultaneously casting Time Square.

I casted Black Crash and Green Crash at the same time I slashed downwards.

Immediately following a strong impactful sound, rock boulders around the area melted as a raging windstorm devastated the surroundings.

The base of the tentacle was erased in a single blow and some smoke goes up from the deck.

..... I’m glad that I aimed the majority of the slash upwards.

It contained more power than I expected and if this hit the deck of the ship, it would have turned out badly.

Red, Green and Sky type magic was combined at a short distance. This spell was clearly much stronger than the spell I used to fight Grain, which was the Red Sphere Triple.

It seems that when there are multiple schools of magic combined together, it produces a higher effect then simply multiplying the same magic three times.

For the time being...

"Shall I name this spell the Volcanon Crash?"

I used every inch of magical power in my body, and being unable to maintain Ainbell's form any longer she disappeared.

"Uohhh! That was amazing young lad!"

"You're awesome!"

Getting excited the seaman were all cheering, and I quickly ran towards Claude.

"Ahaha, I messed up again..... Thank you so much, Zeph-kun"

"Don't worry about it"

The tentacle had lost its powerful grip on her and I stretched my hands towards Claude to help her up. At this point in time, her totally destroyed plate mail crashes towards the deck and reveals her firm and swaying breasts which were being held by it previously.

At the same time a big uproar occurred in the surroundings.

"H-hey.... Bro, you were a girl?!"

"I totally thought that your face was a little bit too feminine but....."

"Well, I already knew it though!"

"Sailor-san. You were the one who saw me running in my pajamas this morning and got surprised weren't you.....?"

Claude was staring at the sailor with a glare and the Sailor could only return a bitter smile.

Oh yeah, that reminds me that the sailors treated Claude like a man the other day.

Claude was embarrassed at being ogled by all these sailors and she quickly covered her chest area with her hands.

Squeezing her breasts and making it spill out even more out of her clothes made the sailors stare at her even more greedily.

Oi oi, Claude, don't you know that doing that is having the complete opposite effect?



CHAPTER 93

KRAKEN, PART 3

I stood in front of the sailors who were just gawking at Claude.

“Oi, it’s not over yet you know?”

“Woops! You’re right!”

“Well, we were just so surprised..... Sorry about before, young lady”

“.....It’s alright, I’m often mistaken as such so...”

Even though she said it was alright, the smile on her face was a little bleak. In any case, there is one tentacle remaining.

“Claude, Zeph, Are you guys alright?”

Lydia who was giving Milly a piggyback ran towards us.

“We’re fine. If we can defeat at least one more tentacle we will at least be able to withdraw. Milly you should concentrate on recovering your magic for now”

“It’s really quite hard to concentrate in these types of conditions...”

Was she embarrassed that she was given a piggyback? In any case Milly was quite restless as her legs were kicking about. While being carried around by Lydia along with how the hull of the ship was shaking so much, it was probably hard for her to concentrate on her meditation.

I ran out of magic recovery medicine it seems.

“Lydia do you have any magic recovery pellets?”

“I’m sorry, I didn’t really bring too much luggage..... After all I didn’t expect us to be fighting.....”

“Please use this”

When I turned my head towards the voice, the man Milly helped out previous presented us with magical recovery pellets.

"I'm a street peddler. I am indebted to the both of you so please use it if it will help. Ah, I also don't need any compensation for it"

After saying that he gave both of us a large amount of magical recovery pellets. The fact that Milly received a bit more than me was probably to thank her for when she saved his life.

"Thank you very much!"

"You've really helped us"

Showing her best formal behaviour Milly smiles to the peddler giving him her thanks, and the man became a little bit embarrassed.

".....Let me just say this now, but don't start getting weird ideas"

"Wha, what are you talking about?"

I pretty much hit it right on the nail. Milly doesn't seem to have noticed it but I was keeping my eye on the peddler.

"C-come on then! You shouldn't worry about me! Go and take care of those monsters!"

I took one of the magical recovery pellets that he gave to Milly and held it in my mouth. It seems that there isn't any poison in it. After swallowing it, the Peddler man was looking at me with an astonished expression.

".....You are really cautious aren't you?"

"She's an important companion of mine after all"

"Umm..... For now, we should concentrate on defeating it right?"

Milly takes one of the magical recovery pill into her mouth and showed me a gesture that asked, 'is it safe to drink this?', I nodded towards her.

"I also don't have any more supplies of high-level mediums so I can't use Ainbell either."

We will attack it with all our power using Red Zero. It isn't necessary to hold back. If we have this much magical recovery pills, then it may even be possible to completely defeat it"

".....Please don't be too hard on me"

Turning my gaze towards the last remaining tentacle attached to the ship, I used Scout Scope on it.

Kraken

Level 80

Magical Power Level 352118 / 985842

I think it's about one step from entering its enraged mode.

Even if we had an unlimited amount of magical recovery pills, (I wasn't paying attention to the worried look that the Peddler gave me every time I took a pill) It was still extremely risky to try and fight a boss in such an unstable deck when it went into berserk mode.

I think that we should take safety measures here.

When the boss is about to enter its enraged mode, it will change its body shape and it will open an opportunity for us to launch an attack.

In that opening we need to cut the last remaining tentacle and get as far from it as we can.

I grabbed a nearby sailor and told them our plan.

"The moment that you see us cut that tentacle, can you do everything in your power to gain as much distance from it?"

"That' should be fine but..... Will that be alright?"

"I'll do something about it so don't worry"

"Well I definitely saw how capable you were just moments ago so... I will inform the captain of your plan. If things work out as planned, the ship should be able to move"

One of the sailors ran off into the cabin, and I continued to swallow several of the magical recovery pellets.

Milly was not that good at meditation so even though she seemed to hate it, she was swallowing up the medicine as often as she could.

“Uuu..... I-it’s so bitter as expected....”

“I’m going to go ahead. I’ll depend on you to follow up on me Milly”

“Gulp, gulp.....Puhahh, I understand!”

Parting from the magical recovery vial she just drank from, she wiped the white liquid contents with her sleeve before replying to me.

Claude follows behind me as I ran towards the tentacle.

“You don’t have your shield nor your plate armor. Do not overdo it, Claude”

“I understand”

I held up my hand towards the tentacle and chanted out Time Square. Just like previously I casted Green Crash twice in a row, releasing the time stop I let it loose.

“Green Crash Double”

I was pursuing tentacles that was blown away from the ballistic impact, and Claude was also attacking it.

And.

Pishi..... The white skin on the tentacles was torn into little pieces as it started to fall into the deck with a pitter-patter.

“Milly!”

“Okay~!”

Already anticipating what was required of her Lydia immediately went into action as she carried Milly to the edge of the ship.

The Kraken was already beginning to mutate as new tentacles were beginning to sprout out of its body, Milly held her hands over the sea towards it.

"God of scarlet magic, I seek the truth from the farthest land of magic, reaching out to you please grant me your strength. With thy crimson blade destroy our enemies!!"

"Red Zero!"

A huge blade made out of scarlet flames descended towards the surface of the sea, and a large quantity of steam and vapour started to surround the area. The root of its tentacle was torn apart and the ship suddenly shook.

The Kraken had released its grasp over the ship.

"Now's our chance!"

"Ohhh!"

The back of the ship sinks greatly and a huge water column rises from the surface of the sea. I could see a magical light from within the column of water. I heard that the sailors apparently had prepared people in the ship that was capable of using magic in case of an emergency situation, I guess this is what they were used for.

The ship was forcefully sped up with the use of magic as it propelled itself further from the Kraken which was beginning to mutate slowly. When I was looking at the appearance of the Kraken from the back of the ship, Milly comes near me.

She seems to have gotten down from Lydia.

"Is it over.....?"

"If that were true then it will be good"

Just in case I started to meditate again in order to restore some of my magical power.

Suddenly when I was looking at where the Kraken was supposed to be, the sea level surrounding it started to rise up drastically. Has it completed its mutation and reached its enraged mode? However, if we are already this far away from it....

But contrary to my expectations, the wave of water was steadily approaching this ship.

It had an incredibly fast speed.

The propelling force and magical light that was shooting out the back of the ship was also beginning to dim as it began to gradually lose its power.

This is really bad, if this continues the Kraken will catch up to us.

“We are going to continue attacking it! Milly!”

“U, Un!”

Milly drinks down more of the magical recovery medicine. Maybe because she was panicking a little bit spilled into her clothes as she hurriedly drank up.

“Buhah!?”

“Oi oi, are you alright Milly?”

When I looked at her face, it was dripping with the white liquid. Somehow she has lost her balance and some of the magical recovery medicine was smeared into her face. Well the ship was shaking quite a bit after all.

“Uuu~.....”

“Here you go, wipe it with this”

Milly was teary eyed and so I lent her my sleeve, and thereupon she used it to wipe her face. While Milly was wiping her face I was thinking of a plan in order to attack it.

Although I’m not absolutely certain of it, it is likely that the Kraken is a monster with Blue magic properties. Therefore, the effect of red magic and blue magic will be minuscule. I don’t really have as much magical energy as Milly, and using a sphere type magic to launch at a monster travelling at that speed is difficult.

In that case there is only one thing I can think of that will be effective against it. I chanted out Time Square and recited Magic Amplification twice in a row.

And now...

“God of Sky Magic, I seek the truth from the farthest land of magic, reaching out to you

please grant me your strength. With thy Black Blade destroy our enemies”

“Black Zero”

From my surroundings, a swirling gust of violent wind gathered and converged towards my arm. I released the Black Magical energy from my palm towards the Kraken.

My spell Black Zero was being amplified to four times its usual power and it instantly pierces into the sea water, the black wind worked its way into the sea water and forming the shape of a spiralling whirlwind it bore into the body of the Kraken.

Black Zero used the same amount of magical energy as Red Zero and will drain a huge portion of my mana when casting it, however in terms of its raw power Black Zero is inferior when compared to Red Zero.

Instead however, the speed and velocity at which Black Zero travels is amongst the fastest out of any magic spell.

Furthermore, the shockwave caused by the blast of wind is capable of restraining the movements of the opponent to a certain degree.

Because of the wind pressure exerted by casting Black Zero, the ship actually begins to accelerate again. I was trying to imitate how Silverie used her Black Zero as a propelling force to move quickly but I couldn't do it that well yet.

However, after only stopping for a moment, the wave of water started to chase after us again.

Oi oi, just how persistent can you be?

I quickly began to meditate whilst taking some more magical recovery medicine.

“Red Zero!”

Milly who was standing beside me shoots out a crimson blade made out of flame at the Kraken. The huge blade of flames goes through the surface of the sea and the Krakens cry could be heard all the way from here.

From this kind of distance and with it traveling at such a fast speed, for Milly to be able

to land that spell on it, that was really quite the feat.

“However, it’s still coming after us”

“Ueee..... It’s really persistent”

Both Milly and I were drinking up more magic recovery medicine and whenever we recovered enough magical energy, we would alternate casting our grand magic and shoot it towards the Kraken.

“Black Zero”

“Red Zero!”

“Black Zero”

“Red Zero!!”

We already emptied out multitudes of magical recovery medicines. As for Milly she was already getting completely burnt out and was soon to run out of steam.

“Red Zeroooo!!”

Sending out her fifth Red Zero towards the Kraken, I could feel the power gush out from her body.

It seems that she has levelled up.

Managing to defeat the Kraken with her blast, the sea was regaining its calmness, finally able to relax Milly who was standing next to me sunk down on to the floor.

“Are you alright?”

“Un..... My stomach feels really bloated and I feel gross.....”

“You’ve really tried your best, well done Milly. I’m proud of you”

Milly was sitting down with a pale face. She was feeling sick as she held down her stomach, and so I gently patted her back telling her ‘there there, you’ll be alright’.



CHAPTER 94

VOMITING

Sitting down, I looked towards the sea, which had become quiet.

Has the item that dropped from the Kraken sunk into the bottom of the sea?

Whilst thinking that it was a shame, Milly leaned her legs against my shoulders.

When I looked at her, she seemed to be green in the face, and was cupping her hands on her mouth.

“Are you alright, Milly?”

“...I don’t think... I’m feeling... very well...”

Milly’s eyes were hollow and she was gasping for air. Did she overexert herself because of being seasick and excessively drinking the magical recovery medicine?

I guess that it can’t be helped.

I squatted in front of Milly and turned around, so that my back was facing her. She was a little confused by this.

“Come on, I’ll carry you on my back.”

“...Un.”

Normally, she would be embarrassed by this kind of thing and hesitate, but right now she doesn’t have enough strength for that. She staggered towards me, and placed her full weight against my back.

The heat being transmitted to my back is hot.

Her breaths that brush against my ear are also rough, so I could tell that she was in a considerably bad condition.

“Heave...ho...”

I moved my hands so as to support Milly's waist, and as I stood up, both Lydia and Claude were looking towards us with worried expressions.

"Are you alright?"

"I'll give you a little motion sickness medicine later, okay?"

Milly did not have enough energy to answer properly, and she could only nod at the concerned words of her two friends.

I decided to carry her light and small body all the way to the cabin.

Perhaps it was still suffering from the after-effects of the fight, but the ship was still shaking as it drifted along.

The Milly that was on my back was so quiet; a stark contrast from her usual attitude.

Milly breathes out painfully. Um, this is really bad.

"I will lie you down on the bed soon, okay?"

After I said this, I think she nodded as I felt the feeling of Milly's head brushing against my shoulder.

Arriving in front of the room at last, Claude opens the door for us.

When I was about to enter inside the room, Claude and Lydia looked at me with their eyes wide open.

What's wrong? Just when I was thinking this, I felt something hot flow down my back.

When I reached out towards Milly's skirt with my fingertips, the thing streaming down was hot to the touch and I instantly understood everything.

"...Did you just vomit?"

I noticed that Milly's small body was trembling on my back.

I began to hear a small sob and her arms were closely embracing and squeezing my neck tight.

Both Claude and Lydia seemed like they didn't really know what to say at this point.

After breathing out a sigh, I lay Milly down on to my bed. She was covering her face with both of her hands and tears were dripping down her face like raindrops.

Both her face and her clothes were gooey with vomit and she was in a terrible state.

“...orry... I’m sorry”

After vomiting once, did she recover enough to be able to talk?

Milly was apologizing to me and she spoke with a shaky voice whilst crying. I patted her head, brushing it gently.

“You fool, don’t be worried about such a trifling thing. Even if clothes get a little dirty, it’s just a simple matter of washing it you know?”

“... But... Uuuu...”

Although I was trying to comfort her, Milly didn’t stop her crying.

Geez, she really cares about such a trivial thing.

Letting out a bitter smile, I kept patting Milly’s head and waited until her sobbing settled.

After a short while, Milly tired herself out and drifted off to sleep, and I finally separated my hand from her head.

“She fell asleep, didn’t she?”

“Yeah, but if only she was this gentle on a regular basis, she would be pretty cute.”

“Zeph-chi, you’re not very honest, are you~”

Lydia uses her elbow to rub against my head.

Oi, can you stop that you baka?

But still, my back is getting cold.

I took off my clothes which were covered in Milly's vomit, and I started to wipe my body, when I did this both Claude and Lydia averted their eyes from me.

I don't really mind it even if they saw me though...

After putting my dirty clothes into a bag, I sat next to Milly and the bed creaked and swayed.

Milly was sleeping with a tranquil expression on her face, and I gently lifted her up by supporting the nape of her neck and unfastened the ribbon she wore.

Taking off the button on her clothes one by one, a small swelling protrusion appeared.



Removing all the buttons, in the moment I was about to take off her jacket.....

“Wa-wa-wait... Zeph-kun?! What are you trying to do!?”

"W-we can take over from here okay!? Zeph-chi should just go outside! Come on, go quickly!"

The voice of the two girls resounded throughout the room.

I was still half-naked, but I was driven out of my room and made to stand outside.

"...This is a little cold."

Well, if they were just changing Milly's clothes, I'm sure it should be over any minute now...

But seriously, what are those two worried about? I know I said that Milly was cute, but I meant that she was adorable as a child.

I'm not the kind of fellow who would become aroused by looking at such a young child.

The sailors were still running around the ship noisily.

That was just how big this fight was, and it may even be possible that the ship was damaged somewhere.

Whilst I was looking around, I saw a man slowly walk towards me.

"The battle just now was splendid."

"Mu..."

The man was of medium build and looked like a gentleman; he was the merchant from a little while ago.

We took a large amount of his magical recovery medicine, so perhaps he came here to complain?

Back then, he didn't seem to mind it, but, seeing how his wavy hair was slicked back, he seemed to be a person that was quite shrewd and calculative.

Perhaps, when he saw us, he sniffed the scent of money.

In my view, he seemed to be a considerably capable merchant.

Just when I was having my doubts, he turned towards me with a refreshing smile.

"It is I who should say thank you. The amount of magical recovery medicine you provided us with could not have been cheap."

"No no, it's not a big deal. After all, you guys saved my life, and I got to watch something amazing."

After saying that, the man took out a single sheet of paper from his jacket, and handed it over to me.

When I took a look, the words 'Silver Coin merchant store owned by Adrei Sombre' were written down.

"Truth be told, I actually run a shop in the capital city. If you were to travel between the east continent to the continent in the north, you will no doubt go past the capital at least once. By all means, please come and visit my store"

This silver coin store was something that also existed in my previous life, and during that time it was a gigantic general store located in the capital.

It had all kinds of recovery medicines, convenient tools, magic scrolls and defensive equipment, it was a complete general goods store capable of rivaling some of the incompetent specialty stores, and many adventurers used to shop there.

Speaking of the name Adrei, he seems to be the manager of the store.

To think that I would be meeting him in a place like this.

"So you are the manager of this silver coin store? I did not expect for someone like you to personally come out to travel and peddle goods around."

"Oh, were you acquainted with my shop? It is my principle to personally handle the products that are being sold to make sure of their quality."

Indeed, this is a man who was capable of setting up such a huge shop.

Just from his demeanor, I was able to tell that he was not an ordinary person.

"May I hear your name?"

“Zeph. My name is Zeph Einstein; the people I was with before are my companions.”

“Hou, even though you are still a child... Woops! I didn’t mean to be rude. After all, you possess an amazing capability.”

“You don’t need to flatter me. I also don’t like to concern myself with being overly courteous.”

“Age has nothing to do with someone’s power. Zeph, don’t you think so as well?”

“I guess.”

We were both chuckling together and one of the sailors who saw us had a puzzled expression on his face.

“... I seem to get along well with you. When you arrive at the capital, by all means, please come to visit my silver coin store.”

“Yeah, I’ll do that.”

Adrei requested a handshake and I reached out my hand in return.

If I go to the capital, I’m sure that the silver coin store will be utilized.

Perhaps I may even be able to obtain a good service because of our relationship.

“By the way, Zeph-dono...”

After returning his handshake, Adrei crouched down and brought his face closer to mine.

“...In regards to that energetic and beautiful girl, would I be able to ask you for her fine name?”

“Who are you referring to?”

“The one with long blonde hair tied up on the left and right...”

After saying that Adrei smiled and made a pose binding his own hair left and right.

"Can't do that."

I made an immediate response.

When I declared it so decisively, Adrei's face turned very lonesome, he gave me a curt bow and left.

Taking back my previous remarks, it would seem that there were actually quite a few fellows out there that like very-young-looking girls.

Even if I did go to the capital, it would probably be for the best if I didn't bring Milly along to the silver coin store...

CHAPTER 95

LOST CHILD

Then the voyage was over without delay in three days, we arrived at Port Izu located in the north continent.

Milly looked meek as a cat and was very docile, therefore Claude and Lydia were considerably worried about her.

When I tried to talk to Milly, she avoided me completely.

The ship arrives at the port; passengers goes down one by one along the pier.

In normal circumstances Milly would usually be the first to run down the pier, however, she hid behind Lydia with a gloomy expression on her face.

(..... is Milly-san alright?)

Claude brings her face close to me and whispers in a small voice. When I look at Milly, she glances at me and then she immediately hides her face.

(Well, I will do something about it)

However, I hardly heard her speak on the ship. Usually Milly is boisterous but now she is like this, it's starting to affect my mood as well.

"Hey, Zeph-chi, let's just find an inn for now?"

"That's true"

I agreed with Lydia's suggestion.

In either case, it's probably necessary for her to settle down a little bit.

"Oh? it's Zeph, and everybody"

I descended from the bridge while having a discussion, then suddenly, I heard a familiar voice from behind.

It was Adrei.

When I stood in front of Milly reflexively, Adrei's face looked a little bit troubled.

"Zeph-dono, as a merchant my actions are based on risk and return. I won't do anything that would interfere with you, you know?"

"I wonder? From my personal experience merchants are very persistent"

"Is that really so?"

Adrei covered his mouth while trying to suppress his laughter. Though such a gesture tells me that he can't be trusted.

"Well, I think it's time for me to go. By all means, when you come to the capital please visit my Silver Coin Store"

After he said that, Adrei turns his gaze toward Milly who was hidden behind Lydia.

"Ehmm Miss, your name is Milly right? I'm looking forward to the day we can meet again"

Milly who was hidden behind Lydia, twitches her body. This fellow, how did he discover that her name is Milly? He really is a shrewd guy.

When I stood in front of Milly and blocked his path without hesitation, Adrei looked at me and shrugged his shoulders.

"I just wanted to greet her you know?"

"Let me tell you, if you lay your hands on Milly, I will not forgive you."

"Zeph-dono is so frightening, I will not dare to lay a hand on Milly. However, please accept my apology if I have made you angry"

After saying that Adrei put something into my pocket and quickly stood up and departed. Riding on his carriage he waved his hands as he moved outside of town raising a cloud of dust.

What's with that guy.....

When I was looking at where Adrei was going, my clothes were being pulled from my back.

When I turned around I saw Milly grabbing on to my clothes.

“Milly?”

“.....Thank you..... and, I’m sorry”

Milly spoke in a small voice that seemed to fade away.

That reminds me, during that time when we fought the King of the Dead a while ago and I covered her and broke my arm, she was also really depressed.

Milly seems to be the kind of person that worries about her failures too much.

Geez for a kid she really cares about others....

I go close to Milly and firmly hugged her small shoulders.

“Kyah!”

“Milly, you wanted to make me do something for my punishment game right? I’ll do anything so just tell me”

“Even if you say that I..... Hyaah”

I suddenly lifted Milly’s body with my arms and carried her in a princess carry, at first she was bashfully kicking her feet up and down but she soon became docile.

“Nn in that case, me and Clau-chan will stop by the inn so Milly-chan and Zeph-chi should go do the shopping together♪”

“That’s true, shall we do that then?”

I was seeing the two girls leave, and I was trying to think of a location within the capital that would make a child really happy, but I felt another pull on my neck.

“.....At least lower me down”

Milly's voice was even smaller than the one from before.

I placed Milly down and grabbing on to her hand I led her through the pedestrian traffic. We were going by the central area of Port Izu. There was quite a lot of people, so I was careful not to let go of Milly's hands.

In the end I couldn't decide on a particular location and after wandering around, we ended up to a place where there was a lot of shops.

There are various shops around here, so it is probable that Milly will like one of them right?

Just like my idea was a bingo, after walking for a while Milly stops in front of a shop.

She was looking through the window of the shop.

She was looking at a small doll with braided red hair.

Muu, I feel like I've been in this situation somewhere before....

"I miss those days..."

After hearing Milly's voice, I suddenly remember it.

When I first met Milly and fought the boss monster King of the Dead and after I scolded her for her rash actions against the boss monster, it was the same as the time where I went to Beruta town to buy the item for monster subjugation.

At that time, she was also crying and apologizing to me and was feeling really depressed. When I came back from Beruta, just like this she was staring at a doll and I remember the situation vividly.

"Ahh..... Come to think of it you're right. Haha"

Recalling our past, I inadvertently laughed.

Seeing me like that, Milly pinches my arm.

Don't you know that hurts...

"At that time, I wanted to be with Zeph just a little longer. But I didn't really know what to say"

"Even if you didn't say anything, haven't we been together since that time?"

"I really didn't understand it back then! But now I finally understand the reason"

Saying that, Milly turns towards me and presses her lips against mine.

Because she turned towards me so vigorously her teeth struck mine and a kachink sound echoed.

Milly held her mouth because of that small pain.



"Owwie.....Hehe, that didn't go so well did it?"

“Milly.....?”

“Alright! With this Zeph’s punishment game is over! Now then, everyone is probably waiting for us, so let’s return shall we ♪ ?”

Spinning around Milly linked both her hands behind her back. Was she feeling embarrassed? In any case she quickly walked into the crowd of people.

After standing there in a daze for a while, I finally realized it.

At that time, whenever I held Milly’s hands, isn’t it because she would be lost like a child if I didn’t?

I ran after her to chase her but it was already too late.

I couldn’t find Milly anywhere, after looking for a while, I decided to contact her telepathically and that’s when I heard her tearful voice.

I finally managed to meet up with her but Milly was sniffling and teary eyed. I held her hands and she strongly grabbed on to mine with both of her hands.

“Don’t cry stupid. And also, don’t let go of my hands again, alright?”

Milly was having the sniffles and I gently caressed her head as she nodded back to me. I got in contact with Lydia and was on my way back to the inn.

(Ahh Zeph-dono, has Milly’s condition improved yet?)

That’s when I heard a familiar voice in my head.

This was Adrei’s voice.

That reminds me, before he left he put something into my pocket.

I rustled around in my pocket and I found a crystal ring fragment.

Giving me something like this, what kind of schemes does he have I wonder?

(Is that you Adrei? Putting this into my pocket and talking to me, are you trying to cheer Milly up?)

(Well something like that.)

Adrei was speaking nonchalantly.

(Sigh... Is this your attempt at first trying to gain my favor ?)

(Before shooting the general you first shoot his horse, there is a foreign saying from a different country that I've heard you see?)

I don't really know his point but I may as well take it as an affirmation?

After saying that I will visit his shop in the future, I cut off communication with Adrei.

He truly is a very cunning guy.



CHAPTER 96

PORT CITY OF IZU

When we arrived at the inn, Claude came out to meet us. Noticing our arrival, she waved her hands energetically and ran over here. In the middle of her run she saw the change in Milly so she smiled happily.

“That’s great!”

After exclaiming this, Claude used both of her hands to wrap it around mine and Milly’s hands which were currently linked together. She was smiling brightly and showing her pearly white teeth, Claude definitely looks like a pretty boy when she’s like this.

Woopsies! she wasn’t wearing her bulky armor right now, so saying that might be a little rude.

“Yeah, she made you worry didn’t she? Claude”

“.....I’m sorry, Claude”

“It’s alright! As long as Milly-san has become energetic!”

Claude was jumping up and down in a good mood, Milly had a slightly embarrassed face as she smiled in return.

“N-now that you mention it, where’s Lydia?”

Perhaps she was becoming overly embarrassed but Milly was trying to change the topic.

“Lydia-san is negotiating the contract for the inn. It seems that she was accustomed to things of this nature so..”

That reminds me, back when we were in Beruta Town, the one who introduced us to the inn we stayed at was Lydia. Thanks to her, we were able to stay in the inn for a long period of time without much trouble. I suppose we will have to count on her this time

around as well. Just as I was thinking about this, the door to the inn opens and Lydia shows her face. Just when we were talking about her, she appears.

“Ohh, Zeph-chi and Milly-san.Looking at you guys, you must have made up with each other”

Putting her hand over her mouth, Lydia was smirking and laughing. Both of these two girls think quite alike. But well, it's also a fact that they helped.

“Thank you”

After thanking the two girls, I smiled with a complex expression on my face.

Suddenly, Kyururururu, I heard a rumbling sound from beside me. When I looked to the side, I could see Milly's red face looking down.

“For the time being, since we've made proper reservations for the inn, shall we go and find some food? The food in the inn sold out really quick, so I don't think there is any left for us”

“I-I suppose so! Let's go, Milly-san!”

“....yea”

Pulling along Milly who had a red face, we returned to the main street.

“By the way, I heard from the people working at the inn that the carriage that goes to the capital only arrives to town every 10 days”

“When's the next arrival date?”

“Nn~ In about six days I think?”

That's plenty of time.

Adrei had already left using a carriage to go somewhere, but well he's really rich. He probably has plenty of methods to travel. Even without a carriage we could still travel via teleportation but it is not really necessary for us to be in such a rush.

Because it takes a couple of days to go to the capital by carriage, it would be necessary

to camp outside if we were to travel by teleportation. If my memory serves me correctly, there should be a dungeon in the vicinity of Izu Town. It is still possible to do training here, so I think that we can just wait for the next carriage to arrive.

“In a port town like this that is near the capital, they should have some delicious food that we can eat right?”

“Clau-chan eats quite a lot of food but, she doesn’t seem to get any fatter does she~?”

“I-I’m in my growth period, that’s why.....”

Lydia leans over Claude and hugs her from behind, she was massaging and fondling her chest. If I must say so myself, indeed she seems to have grown in that area. When I looked in Claude’s direction, Milly gripped my hand strongly and stared towards me piercingly.

By the time we reached the shopping district, it was already evening and a good smell was drifting from a nearby store. It’s been a long time since I’ve eaten a good meal. I don’t necessarily dislike simple fish dishes, but more complex cooking was still better. Especially in Izu Port City where various ingredients are gathered from all over the world, I suspect that we will be able to eat a variety of delicious meals.

Even if I wasn’t Milly, even my stomach would rumble at the thought.

When we were looking for places to eat, we came to this shop with a huge white wall. Looking at this shop, there was a long line of people waiting.

“Uwaah~ This is amazing isn’t it.....?”

“It’s so popular. This kind of queue is something that I’ve never seen in Beruta Town”

“It says that we need to wait approximately 2 hours....”

“Shall we go find another restaurant then?”

Indeed, it might have been really delicious cooking but, waiting hours in line just to have a meal is inefficient. At the very least, it was impossible for me. When I turned around to find another shop, I ran into Claude’s breasts as she was just standing still.

“Claude?”

Claude's gaze was turned towards the back alleyway. When I traced where she was looking at I arrived at this small shadow that was moving in a dark pathway. it seems to be a child, moreover that is.....

"A beast person?"

A beast person is one of the races that often lived in these northern continents, it was a half-human, half-beast race.

They were essentially people with animal ears and or tails, and this change was not merely limited to their physical bodies but it could also affect the way their minds worked, and in comparison with normal human beings, their mind was a little more unstable and prone to agitation.

If they got excited, they would often act impulsively like they were a beast.

However, their fighting capabilities and their abilities to search for their enemies exceed those of humans, and there are instances where they have worked together with humans to fight against monsters and demons.

The special characteristics of their eyes is that normally they are blue, but when they are in the peak of their emotions their eyes will turn red. The rumors are that the first beast person came to existence because they were transformed by the magical energies in the land. Magic is abundant and overflowing in the ground, and there are times the magical energies that are collected in the ground gushes forth. When this happens a dungeon is created, and the magic that gushes out creates water and rocks, animals and monsters in the neighboring area, since ancient times, it is believed that when a person lives in an area of land that accumulates a large amount of magical energy for an extended period of time, the result is that their children will be born into half-human, half-beast.

With this kind of context, asides from the adventurers who are used to fighting, it was difficult for the people of the town to accept them for who they are. It was especially hard on the children. The children of beast people were likely forced to pick up scraps of food that were thrown away and they were holding a pot in their hands. Claude was looking at them with such sorrowful eyes. They were barely making a living for themselves, and perhaps it made her remember about her old lifestyle.

"Oi, Claude...."

“T-that can’t be true! Ahaha.....”

I haven’t even said anything. Claude was letting out a dry laughter.

“Hey, you guys. Want to try eating this?”

After seeing Claude, Milly entered the ring of children. I’m not sure when she bought it but she was holding some cakes in her hand. Isn’t that the thing that Milly often eats for her snacks? Even though nothing will change even if she did something like this.... Haa, after breathing out a sigh, I could hear Lydia’s happy laughter from behind.

“Both of you are so kind~”

“It’s only sweets. That kind of thing is only done for self-satisfaction”

“Ahaha, but Zeph-chi you were smiling you know?”

Muu, I didn’t realize it myself but my face was being lax? I was scratching my head and Lydia was crossing both her arms behind her head whilst showing a smile of mischief. If it was me in the past seeing that kind of action, I would of deemed it as inefficient and waste of time, but after being with the girls it would seem that I have changed a little as well. Breathing out another sigh, I took a step forwards toward the children crowding around Milly.

“Hey, you guys”

Although I was calling out to them, the children were completely absorbed and indulging themselves on the cake that they received from Milly.

.....These kids.

“It won’t be enough with just that right? I will let you eat something even more delicious than that so come over here”

Before I even finished my sentence, the children turned towards me and they had this beast like glint in their eyes.

.....These rascals.

They were indescribably calculative. Walking with droves of beast children behind me,

I entered a not so popular shop. Along the way, there was plenty of curious and scornful gazes but I didn't mind them at all. The shop assistant came to take my order with a puzzled look and I started to order everything from the beginning to the end of the menu.

If you serve visitors like this, that's the reason you won't get many guests.

Whilst watching the children greedily devour the food around them, I was eating a roasted chicken. Mu, the taste isn't bad. When I bit into the crispy skin of the roast chicken, a boy turns his gaze towards me.

His age was probably a little undermine. Even when he was following me before, it felt like he was leading everyone else. It is likely that this fellow is their leader. In spite of being a child he seems to have a strong-minded face and his eyes looked sharp. Come to think of it, these children were wearing rags but they seemed to have washed themselves properly and they didn't really smell. Staring into my eyes like he was evaluating me, he showed me his white fangs and an amiable smile.

“Nii-chan giving us a meal to eat, thanks alot!”¹

“If you want to give your gratitude, you can give it to Milly. Because all of this is her treat”

“Cough!”

When I said this and pointed at Milly, she was so surprised that she choked on the food she was eating. Lydia was patting Milly's back as she was having a coughing fit.

“Are you alright? Milly-san”

“cough, cough.... Zeph....”

“I was joking”

Looking at how she was choking, I let out a chuckle. Seeing the situation the young boy, poked me with his elbow.

“oh man~ but seriously I'm so jealous of you bro~”

“....Let me just tell you but no matter how much you try to flatter me; this is going to

be the only time I'll treat you. To begin with, don't you each have your own houses you can return to"

I glared at the young boy.

"Oh man hahaha..... Did we get found out?"

"Your clothes are properly washed, and for a kid that's supposed to be homeless, the complexion of your skin is also quite good. This builds the evidence that you've lived a reasonable life"

Perhaps Milly and Lydia didn't notice this fact, but they were showing surprised expressions.

"As for me I was even thinking that they may be forced into doing something like this by their own guardians"

Isn't that being way to suspicious Claude? Even I did not conceive of such an idea. After exchanging looks with Milly, the young boy stood up and scowled at Claude.

"Big sis Sill isn't going to do something like that!"

Shouting out in an angry voice, the young boy startled everyone. The young boy's eyes turned red in anger, and his white fangs were showing for an instant. Red eyes, this is the so called wild temperament of the beast people I suppose?

Before he acts violently, would it be better for me to put him to sleep? When I was thinking about such things the boy covered his own face with his hand.

"....ops..... My bad"

After apologizing lightly, he closes his eyes, and repeatedly takes in a deep breath. He was also reciting something out in a mumble. Was he trying to suppress and control his own feelings?

After waiting for a while, the boy that was concentrating on his breathing opened his eyes slowly. The eyes which had been dyed red until a moment ago turned back to a clear shade of blue. After the boy settled down, Claude bowed her head to apologize.

"..... I'm am sorry. I didn't intend to offend you; I was being insensitive"

"Ahh it's fine, our kind easily gets flared up. I almost made the mistake of attacking the benefactor who generously treated us to a meal"

Claude was quite worried and the boy just told her not to mind it whilst laughing. The other kids also seemed to feel relieved.

"It seems that this nature is more troublesome than I've heard it to be"

"Ah yeah I guess. That's why big sis Sill always tells out not to trouble other people. Nn but instead of talking about this, let's eat! eat!"

"Ahh! That was my meatt!"

".....This is my treat to them"

Having a meal surrounded by a large group from time to time isn't all that bad either. In saying that these children have a terrifying appetite and there was little food left over for us to eat. Especially Milly, she kept losing to how quick the children were snacking up the food. It might be better if I started to order extra. When I was thinking about such things, the ear that was on top of the boy's head pricked up and moved.

"This is bad..... it's big sis Sill. Let's run away, you guys!"

As soon as the leader young boy said this, the children started to scatter and disperse in all directions, jumping out from the open windows. I'm not really sure what's happening but it seems to be their guardian? A beast person's senses were much more astute in comparison to a human. It's likely that they heard some kind of sound approaching. In an instant the table that was rowdy moments ago turned silent, and whilst we were staring at them in surprise, the windows were wide open and most the children were already gone.

"Thanks a lot! Let's meet again okay!"

The young boy gives his salute and closes the open window with a slam. When everyone was exchanging looks with each other, this time the front door of the cheap restaurant opened.

When we looked towards the door there was this girl wearing a blue priestess outfit. Her light pink hair grows down to her waist, and her long eyelashes and her tightly bound up breasts were rising up and down as she tried to catch her breath.

When I raised my face upwards, her black eyes locked on to mine.



CHAPTER 97

MEAL

The attention of everyone in the shop turned to the girl in the Priestess outfit as their eyes slowly opened wider. The face of the girl who saw the disastrous scene inside of the restaurant changed from red to blue.

Is she perhaps Sill, the elder sister that boy was talking about?

Her face was turning paler by the second and sweat was rolling down her cheeks, in the next moment, she turned herself towards the shop owner and greatly lowered her head in apology.

“I’m so very sorry!”

The store owner that suddenly saw her vigorously bow her head became speechless.

“Those children seemed to have caused trouble again..... so.....”

Even whilst she was apologizing she was looking at the store owner with upturned eyes. Although the shop owner was momentarily perplexed at the scene, after a while he grinned at her as if he realized something.

“.....Shirushu-san, you need to properly look after those troublesome brats~ “¹

“I’m sorry! I’m so sorry!”

Perhaps he was pleased with her obsequious nature of apologizing repeatedly, but the store owner lifts the corners of his mouth even further and takes another step towards her.

“If things would be settled by just apologizing we wouldn’t even need Dispatch Magicians, don’t you think so....?”

“Uu..... Then what do I need to do.....?”

“What I want is for Shirushu-san to show more sincerity. You know what good faith is,

right?"

"S-Sincerity.....?"

Shirushu was perplexed and the man reached out his burly hands and gripped on to her shoulders. Shirushu shows a bitter smile and her face was cramping up.

"You should leave it at that"

Along with the sound of my voice, I floated a fireball right in front of the storekeepers face.

I had chanted out Red Ball.

"M...Magician....!"

"The children did not do anything bad. There is no need for you to apologies to the shop owner"

Shirushu had a puzzled face as she alternated her gaze between the embarrassed shop owner and me. Walking briskly towards the shop keeper, I paid the bill for the meal.

"Umm...?"

"We were the ones who invited and treated them to the meal. But they seemed to be terribly afraid. Of this person called elder sister Sill"

Kuku I smiled at Shirushu and she seemed to finally understand the circumstances, her face was dyed in the color of shame.

"I'm sorry! I'm so sorry!"

This time she was repeatedly bowing towards me. When a woman dressed this properly was behaving so modestly, although not to the extent of that shop owner from before, but it really makes me want to tease her a little bit.²

When I was thinking about such things, I felt a prickling glance from the three girls behind me. Suppressing my sadistic mind, I waved my hands to let Shirushu know not to worry about it.

"Those children were hanging around down town and seemed to be really hungry so I treated them. I was just being a busy body. So it's nothing you need to worry about"

"I-Is that really so? In that case thank you very much"

Once again Shirushu bowed her head towards me. I just told her not to worry about it... Lydia approaches Shirushu and taps her shoulder to comfort her.

"There there, Zeph-chi has already said that it is alright, so you don't have to worry about it so much"

"That will not do! I need to show my gratitude somehow! If there is something that I can do, please tell me!Although I don't have any money...."

"Hou.... You said you'd do anything?"

"You can't be like that, Lydia-sann...."

Lydia's eyes were catching on this dangerous glint and Claude quickly pulls Shirushu away from Lydia.

Nice follow Claude.

"You want to thank us.... Hmm~ then how about you show us around the city, what do you say? We still have plenty of time before the carriage to the Capital arrives so, until then we will be staying over here"

This Port Town was the passing point for people that wanted to go to the Capital, so various kinds of people and interesting things were gathered here. I've also come here in my past life and because I was alone at that particular time, my mode of transport was mainly using teleportation. There may be somethings here that only a local person living in the area would know about. Hearing Claude's suggestion, Shirushu's face became a beaming smile.

"If that's the case, it would be an easy request!"

Saying that Shirushu pats her chest in confidence.

Perhaps she hit her chest too hard? but she started to cough a little afterwards. What's this? Because that young boy was so afraid of her I thought that she might be someone

scary but, she seems to be quite the pleasant girl. Although her habit of apologizing so much might be her weakness.

Milly was also giggling.

“Hey Zeph-chi, for now let’s get out of here?”

“That’s true. Everyone’s glance is a little uncomfortable”

Both of the girls seem to be worried about the eyes of the people in the restaurant. There weren’t really many customers in this shop so I didn’t think it was something they needed to worry about. But well, there is no reason for us to stay here anyways.

“Wait a moment”

When we were going to go outside, the store owner called out to stop us. When I turned around, he thrust a sheet of paper towards me.

“There’s not enough money”

Apparently, it was a little insufficient. When I put out the remaining owed, Shirushu gave me another look of apology.

After getting out of the shop, Milly who had not yet been satisfied by the previous meal suggested that we continue to eat at a nearby snacking shop. After finishing our food orders, Shirushu started to do her self-introduction with a slight bow.

“I’m sorry that I’m late in introducing myself. My name is, Shirushu Onslaught”

After she introduced herself, we also replied in kind.

“My name is Zeph”

“My name is Milly Reyad! Pleased to meet you, Shirushu”

“I am Claude”

“You can call me Lydia”

“Please treat me well, everyone”

After everyone finished introducing themselves, Shirushu bows her head again. She gives her bow to Claude and Lydia. Then panics and continues to bow to Milly. Being polite is good and all but I think she's a little too formal.

"I work as a sister of the church on the outskirts of this town. I am taking care of those children but..... they are really naughty"

Showing a troubled face and an apologetic smile Shirushu's face looked like a mother's face, it reminded me of that mother in the town of Nanami. I extended my hands towards the food that the employee brought to our table; Shirushu on the other hand was only grabbing the cup in front of her and drinking water.

"By the way Shirushu, is it alright even if you don't chase after those children?"

"No, more importantly, I need to show you guys my gratitude..... After all those children were troubling you"

"Nn~ But it's already getting dark *chew, mumble*.... Aren't we just going around town? If that's the case I think it would be fine if we did it tomorrow?"

"Lydia-san, that's bad manners. Mou....."

Lydia was holding all the food in her mouth while talking so Claude warns her about it.

Looking at this scene Shirushu chuckles.

"Is everyone here perhaps an adventurer?"

"Yeah, we came from the eastern continent. We just arrived here today"

"Then do you have any places to stay at.... Ah, if you'd like perhaps you could stay over in our church!"

Shirushu leans forwards and puts both of her hands against her chest with a joyous face.

"We've already booked at an inn so don't worry"

"Is that so.....?"

After Lydia's reply, Shirushu was clearly depressed. Did she really feel that indebted just because we treated the children to a meal? She's such an honest person.

"Shirushu, You don't have to mind it so much you know?"

"No, that won't do.....!"

"..... By the way, umm are you going to eat that?"

Shirushu twitched at the sudden interruption by Milly. Now that you mention it, she's been doing nothing but sip on water.

"No, I haven't ordered any foods so please go ahead! Besides, I'm not hungry at all!"

Shirushu was flapping her arms whilst offering her portion to Milly, but I could see that her eyes were locked on to the bone chops I was holding.

"You want some?"

When I presented my bony chops to Shirushu, her white throat made a gulping noise. You were taking care of all these hungry children. You can't be letting yourself get hungry as well, right?

"No! I haven't paid any money for this, besides, I cannot allow myself to receive such a generous gift..... Muguu!?"³

The moment Shirushu opened her mouth, I shoved the thick bony meat into her small mouth. The meaty juices streamed down her pink colored lips. Staring in wonder, Shirushu who hasn't seemed to have tasted meat in a long time had this melted expression on her face.

"Doesn't it taste good?"

When I asked in a teasing manner, Shirushu was nibbling and eating with an indescribable expression as she mumbled out the words. She had so much in her mouth that I couldn't really tell what she was saying but just from looking at her face, I already knew what she wanted to say.

After wholeheartedly sucking on the piece of meat that I gave her Shirushu immediately started to eat it up. Her mouth was opened. Eating it very intently until

all that was left was a totally cleaned out bone.

“Fuhaah.....”

Shirushu was sighing as if she was spellbound and this inevitably pulled everyone's attention. Was she really that hungry? All the meat in the bone totally disappeared into her mouth.



“Showing you this unsightly face of mine, I'm very sorry.....”

In the end Shirushu herself managed to finish half of the things we ordered, and she once again started to repeatedly bow her head to us in apology.

“Don't worry about it, it's fine I'm telling ya! Just make sure to make up for it tomorrow, okay♪?”

"Yes! That's of course! I will do my utmost, so please allow me to become the best town guide!"

"When you talk about the church being on the outskirts of town, do you mean that thing, over there?"

When I looked to where Lydia was pointing at, I could certainly see a isolated church on the outskirts of town.

Small shadows were moving in the garden. Although it was hard to see from this distance, those shadows were likely the children. Shirushu seemed to be relieved that the children had returned safely and she breathed out deeply.

"..... Shirushu, I think that we should leave it at this for today. We will be counting on you tomorrow"

"Yes! In that case, please excuse me"

"Yeah"

Shirushu gave us a big and curt bow, and with an amazing amount of energy she ran towards the church. I was smiling wryly as I saw her off but she stumbled on a stone-paved road across the way and fell flat on her face.

Seeing that Milly burst into laughter.

"She's such an interesting person isn't she, Zeph?"

"That's true, but having Shirushu as our town guide, I feel a little uneasy"

"I feel uneasy in a different meaning though....."

"Ahahah! After coming this far, I think it would be much easier if you didn't worry so much, Clau-chan♪"

Giving up Claude lets out a sigh, and Lydia goes behind her and hugs her breasts from behind.

CHAPTER 98

INN

After seeing Shirushu off and returning inside of the inn, we walked towards our bedrooms. When we went inside the room, there was four big beds and this was a great difference between the small cabin we had to sleep in just until yesterday. Well it was fine in its own way but.....

“.... Why am I also in the same room?”

“Eh? Is that a bad thing?”

“Obviously it isn’t good!”

Lydia pretended to be ignorant about this matter. I mean back when we were sailing in that ship and we were pressed for money, it was inevitable for us to stay in the same cramped room together, but if it was possible to obtain a decent room, obviously we needed to split the rooms.

“Nn~ But isn’t it way more convenient this way? I mean the thing with helping me with my magical power line.... back at the ship? It’s it more efficient this way jyan?”

Mu, if you mention it like that I suppose she has a point. It is certainly more... efficient this way....?

“I think it’s fine. After all I don’t think Zeph is the kind of person to do anything strange. Right, Claude?”

“I....I don’t particularly.... mind”

Averting her gaze, Claude glances towards me with a red face. The moment she met my eyes, she quickly lowers her gaze. Well if nobody else minds it then... I suppose I don’t really mind either.

“Well, I suppose I don’t really have any reason to oppose this either”

After saying this I sat down on the bed. We aren’t going to be staying here for a long

time anyways, so at least whilst we are in Izu it should be fine. I always go out every night to hunt, so it would be bad of me if I woke them up during this time. Whilst thinking about this, Lydia stood up and did a big stretch for her body.

“Now then! Shall we take a bath!”

“That’s true, it wasn’t possible to take a bath in the ship so my body is really sticky”

“You can’t peep at us! Zeph!”

“As if I’d peek, how foolish”

Lydia leads the way and I saw the three girls off as they hurriedly left the room, finally having time to take a breather I was resting on the bed when suddenly it dawned on me. Now that I think about it, that girl Ain hasn’t come out in a while.

Because I don’t have any more high-quality mediums, is that why she can’t come out? In the fight I had with the Kraken, I used up all of it so... I tried chanting out the summon servant spell, but nothing happened.

I became a little worried so I opened up Milly’s bag and took out a high-quality medium before trying to chant the summon servant spell one more time. Along with a flash of light, Ain appears. In the brief time that I was feeling relieved, Ain was collapsed on top of me with her eyes still closed. I raised her body in front of me to take a good look at her face, but her usually cheerful appearance could not be seen.

“Oi Ain? Hey! Are you alright!?”

When I shook her shoulder, her small mouth moved and twitched in response.

“Uu.... Gramps..... Food.....”

The first thing she said from her small mouth was an urgent request for food. Although I’m glad that she wasn’t sick, I’ve really done a bad thing to her. From now on I need to be more mindful of this matter....

I instantly paid a visit to the town at night, purchasing about 100 high-quality mediums from a general store, I quickly went to the back of the alley to chant the summon servant spell again. I grabbed a handful of them to give towards Ain and she immediately munched on them.

“Oi, don’t eat so fast, you’ll choke on them”

“Wafuahfueru Wafuahfueru!”¹

I didn’t really know what she was saying but, she seemed to be energetic so I felt relieved.

“I’m sorry, it’s not like I forgot about you but...”

“Wafure fuhihafuehi! Ehhai yuruha inrafurae!”²

Saying this, she pointed her finger on the tip of my nose. I’m telling you, I have no idea what you are saying.

“Just talk about it later, for now just stay silent and eat up”

When I presented her with more, it goes without saying that she quickly took the high-quality mediums from my fingers and gobbled them up.

“Fuhaah~ My stomach’s so full♪”

After a while she seemed to be really full. She patted her own belly and she breathed out a content sigh.

“My bad, Ain. I’ll make sure this kind of thing doesn’t happen again from now on”

“That’s right! I’m still in my growth period so I won’t permit it if you try to skip my meals!”

“I know, I know. I’ll make sure to feed you properly”

After patting Ain’s head, her rough breathing finally settled down.

“But well, it’s also not good to overeat so perhaps I might need to restrict your diet a little”

“Huh?”

Ain’s face which was really determined a little while ago suddenly turned pale.

"If you just eat like this without any restrictions, it will be really dangerous for my wallet. Not just that, Ain, I also know that you sometimes come out when I don't call you and you sneakily eat the mediums"

"T-that's because my stomach get's emptyy...."

"In any case, I'm going to give you 10 pieces every day. Although, I will also feed you that much whenever you turn into your Divine Sword Form: Ainbell"

"No wayy~Gramps come on...."

Turning her big wet eyes towards me, she gave me a puppy-eyed look. Holding on to my shoulders, she leaned against me coquettishly. Where did she learn such a trick, I wonder? But still,

"A no is a no"

"Auuu~"

After saying this, Ain looked depressed and she disappeared along with a flash of light. When I returned to the inn, Milly and the other girls had finished their bath. The three of them had already changed into their pajamas and they were combing their wet hair. In the middle of them, a red ball that Milly produced was floating in the air. They were probably trying to dry their hair with that.

"Welcome back, Zeph-kun"

"Where did you head off to~"

"I had a little something to take care of"

Sitting on my own bed, I looked at the three girls. Perhaps their body was flushed after taking a hot bath but, all their faces were red. Maybe they were still hot? But their clothes were quite exposed and their hair was sticking to their cheeks. They had a really long bath it seems. However, when these three girls are lined up like this....

"You're still like a child aren't you, Milly?"

"Whaa!?"

Raising a hysterical scream, Milly covered her small breasts with her small hands. That and the red ball floating in the air started to shake violently. Oi, that's really dangerous you know? I immediately casted a blue ball to offset it.

"That's precisely what I mean by childish"

"Muu~! Zeph you bakaa!"

Puffing up her cheeks, Milly glares at me, seeing the situation both Claude and Lydia laughs.

"Zeph-kun is such a tease isn't he?"

"Because he's like that Milly-chan can't be honest with herself~"

Saying this, Lydia holds both of Milly's shoulders and pushed her down on to the bed.

"Wait..... Lydia!?"

"Please stay still, Milly-san"

Milly was flapping her feet around, and Claude started to firmly hold her down, Lydia began taking her clothes off. In the twinkling of an eye, her outer garments were all taken off, and Milly's small back was revealed. Milly was glaring at the two girls reproachfully, but she now resigned and buried her face into her pillow.

"There we go, all yours Zeph-chi♪"

"Even if you say that..... What do you want me to do?"

"Come on Milly-san, you need to ask him properly"

I couldn't follow where this was going and both Claude and Lydia seemed to be having a lot of fun. Milly continues to be silent and doesn't move.

"The truth is, we spoke with Milly a little while ago, and the reason she was so sulky this morning is....."

"Wahh! S-Stop! Claude! I'll say it myself so!"

Shouting in a loud voice Milly tells Claude to not reveal anymore, and she gave a glance in my direction. It seems that she was greatly embarrassed, so her face was dyed red. Milly's mouth moved slightly and although she was mumbling something out, I couldn't really hear her.

"What was that? I can't hear you Milly"

".....your....hand..."

"Can you please speak in a louder voice?"

To be honest with, I already understood the gist of what she was trying to say, but I deliberately asked her. Claude looks at me with a face that said, 'don't be such a teasee'. Normally Milly was so cheeky and conceited, seeing her like this was rather sweet. Her shoulders were slightly trembling and Milly was tightly grasping on to the pillow.

"I...I want you to do the same thing..... that you did with the other two!"

While her face was still buried in the pillow, she spoke in such a big voice that the next room probably heard her. Both Claude and Lydia showed a smile of relief.

"Although I don't really mind it..... Since Milly already has quite the developed magical power line, it probably won't be that effective you know?"

".....That's fine!"

Although she spoke in a smaller voice than previously, I could feel a strong resolution. Good grief, if she asked me in this manner every time, I would do it as much as she likes.

"I understand. I'm going to start caressing your back gently, okay?"

".... Okay"

Looking downwards, Milly has a slight smile on her face. Sitting across from her, I placed my hand in the center of her small back. When I paid close attention, I found that Milly's magical power line was indeed thick and developed throughout her whole body.

It really seems like this is just going to be me gently caressing her back... Well,

considering Milly has showed her courage and went this far to ask me, it wouldn't be nice if I just treated her with disdain. When I twined my magical energy with Milly's magical power line, I could tell that bit by bit, Milly's body was starting to tremble.

Was she feeling a little cold perhaps?

When I moved her magical line with my hand a little, Milly's head sank further into her pillow. And,

“.....Puh! Ahahahaha! T...That's really ticklishh! S-stop I can't anymore! Hyafufuh!”

She suddenly started to burst into laughter.

I was staring blankly as she looked behind her back towards me and twisted her body. She escapes towards her futon.

“Hii.....hiii.....sorry.... Zeph.... but I'm at my limits....”

“You....”

Rolling around laughing Milly was teary-eyed. Watching her like this, I let out a sigh with an amazed look on my face.

CHAPTER 99

MULTIPLE SYNTHESIS

In the end Milly laughed herself to sleep so I covered her with her futon blanket. Afterwards, both Claude and Lydia's magical power lines were reinforced and strengthened.

At that time, Lydia was staring at Claude because she was letting out these weird sounds of 'Uwaa~' or 'Tahaa~'. Claude seemed to be embarrassed, so the moment we finished our session she immediately covered herself with her futon and went to sleep.

Lydia lied down and when I came towards her she grinned at me whilst whispering in a low voice.

"My, my~ Clau-chan she was kind of ero tic wasn't she~?"

"..... I think Lydia is pretty much the same though"

"Eh~ You really think so~?"

For some reason Lydia was acting all shy. It's terrifying how she has no self-awareness.

After that I decided to take a short nap and when I woke up it was early next morning. I felt sluggish and still quite tired, perhaps I overslept a little?

(Zeph, are you free right now?)

As soon as I woke up, I heard a voice in my head.

This voice is....

(Silverie!)

(It's been quite a while hasn't it. There's another matter that I want your help with but...)

(Hang on, before we go any further, Silverie, did you know that I am unable to initiate

the conversation towards you?)

(.....?)

Silverie becomes silent. As expected she had no idea...

(When you divided your crystal ring and gave me a fragment of it, it makes it possible for us to initiate a conversation, however, only the owner of the ring is capable of establishing communication)

(Unh..... Is that so?)

I feel like this is the first time she's heard of this fact. This is why she's such a loner.

(..... Let me just make this clear, but I'm not a loner. It's just that I haven't used this type of thing before)

(For an adventurer to have never used a crystal communication ring before.... Well, I'll be thankful as long as you call out to me sometimes. I also have something I want to give you)

(Mu, I don't mind going to pick it up)

(The thing is that I'm currently in the Northern Continent. There is a couple of things I needed here)

(..... I understand. Well in that case the next time we meet, I'll be contacting you again)

(Yeah, thanks Silverie)

After I said my thanks, she laughed like she was a little embarrassed and then Silverie cut communications. The next time we meet, I'll be sure to give a fragment of the crystal ring that I possess so that I will be able to converse with Silverie.... Well it seems that it won't be long before we meet though.

While talking with Silverie, I was changing from my sleepwear to my everyday wear. The sun was starting to rise and things were getting a little brighter. Although it's kind of like a half-measure, it will still be sufficient for me to take a look at the surroundings of the town, right?

When I was going to leave the inn, the boss of the inn was looking at me whilst smirking.

“Well well, you had plenty of fun last night, didn’t you?”

“Hm... yea....?”

I didn’t really understand what this inn owner was talking about, and I merely returned an indifferent response. What on earth was he talking about I wonder?

Port Izu wasn’t really a large town but, it was a town connected to the sea and the capital.

Even this early in the morning the streets were bustling with traffic and people were filled with livelihood.

Getting out of this alley and walking along the wall, I found a robust looking soldier guarding a gate. Noticing me, the guard gave this intense smile.

“Good morning. Young boy!”

“Y...yea...”

This kind of thing happens in most towns, when I was in Beruta town, Lydia was well known so we didn’t run into much trouble back then. But if I had to explain the situation by myself it would be troublesome.¹

I hid myself in the shadow of a nearby house and chanted out the black coat spell. This magic uses a refraction of light in order to conceal someone’s appearance. Whilst under the cover of this magic, it is only possible to move around slowly but it’s quite the useful spell.

Slipping past the soldier, I managed to go outside. It seems that he didn’t notice. Chanting teleport, I appeared in a rocky area and climbing to the top I could see a wilderness as far as my eyes could reach. Walking with light steps, I could feel a presence from behind me.

When I turned around, a beast with four pairs of rocky legs groaned and looked towards me. It had a red glint in its eyes, sharp fangs and saliva slobbering down its mouth.

Rock Wolf

Level 22

Magical Power Level: 2 8 6 2 / 2 8 6 2

This is one of the monsters that lived in the surrounding areas of this town and was one of the strong ones.

Compared to the continent in the east where I used to live, the continent up north here has strong ties to the earth and the magical power of earth is quite high in these areas. Naturally, the monsters born in this area also have an affinity with the earth.

“Red Crash”

I killed it in a single blow. If it’s just this much, there should be no problems. The rock wolf’s body rattles and crumbles to the ground revealing a shining crystal.

“So that I can feed the starving Ain, I should get to work, right?”

Putting the crystal away into my pouch, I started walking again, that’s when two rock wolves appeared from the left and right from a nearby boulder.

I immediately cast red crash to the rock wolf approaching from the left, and whilst hearing the sound of its body crumbling, I deftly side stepped the rock wolf attacking from the right.

After a short pause, I cast another red crash. I was able to take care of both of these rock wolves immediately. Although they aren’t that difficult to take care of, there seems to be quite a lot of them.

Incidentally, I did have something I wanted to try out. Currently I have levelled up Time Square to a sufficient stage that I am able to cast 3 consecutive spells in one instance. And the result of this is the spell I synthesized and combined in the ship, the three-fold spell: Volcanon Crash. It’s clearly evident that when I use the same elementary type magic and combine three of them in one spell, the power dramatically rises. Therefore, I can say for sure that it will be worth to experiment with synthesizing three-fold magic.

In the middle of my thoughts, and just in time for my experiment another rock wolf appears. Chanting Time Square, I cast: Red Ball, Black Ball and Green Ball, letting it loose.

“Volcanon Ball”

From my right hand a mixture of three colors swirled together; red, black and green. the mass of reddish brown colors melted together and surged out violently. Compared to the Volcanon Crash I used the other day, this was a more basic version of that spell.

When the spell collided with the rock wolf, the bullet of lava easily erased the rock wolf out of existence.

Umu, however...

“But with this, it’s really hard to tell the extent of this spell’s power”

After all, rock wolf was defeated in a single spell. Well, I suppose being able to destroy the wolf in one blow proves that it has a suitable amount of power.

Now that you mention it, I still have that thing.

Rustling around my bag, I took out the Frey Brand, which is the sword I previously obtained after defeating the Sunny Raven.

“If I use this, perhaps I can even create a four-fold spell?”

When I was fighting the dispatched magician Grain, I used Tetra Crash, a four-fold spell. This spell exudes a golden colored light when cast and it one of the most powerful spells in my current repertoire.

Well the Volcanon Ball was a combination of elementary magic and was not as advanced as the Volcanon Crash, but even so it should have a considerable amount of power.

Another Rock Wolf appears at its own discretion. Wielding the Frey Brand, I simultaneously casted Time Square. This time, I chanted out: Blue Ball, Black Ball and Green Ball. Mixing the three magical balls, an icy rocky ball wrapped in a storm was created.

Upon impact, the rock wolf was frozen momentarily before a ball of fire collided into it making it crumble to dust. It seems my timing was off. As per usual this isn’t easy to get used to.

“For the time being, let’s call this spell the Icicle Ball”

Once again, I am unable to determine the exact power of this spell. After that I took a rest in between each cast, and even though I tried several more times, I was unable to cast my Tetra Ball spell.

It has always had a low chance of succeeding but trying to combine it with three-fold magic increases the difficulty even more.

Because it requires a huge amount of concentration in casting the spell and at the same time wielding the sword, it probably requires a mastery of both magic and swordsmanship.

Do I need to start training my swordsmanship? But I am supposed to be a magician...

Moreover, the Icicle Ball sometimes fail to destroy the Rock Wolf in one blow, so it would seem that the power is at least weaker than the Volcanon Ball.

Well, it is the Blue Ball..... In comparison with other systems of magic, the blue magic system has a weak power. To make up for it, the blue magical system has other advantageous effects but it isn’t really suited for attacking. The reason I don’t use this branch of magic often is precisely because of this.

Completing my experiments, I noticed that the area was getting really bright so I returned to town. Before returning to the inn, I visited the general store, selling the crystals I managed to obtain from the rock wolves, I bought some high-quality mediums.

General stores are often stocked with a variety of useful goods, but compared to the smaller private stores, the price is considerably more expensive when trying to buy goods. There are also private stalls in this town, but I didn’t have much time to look around.

Going out of the shop I went undercover and chanted Summon Servant, Ain appeared and was in a really bright mood. But seeing the 10 high-quality mediums in my hand, her face changed into despair immediately.

“A-After all, I only get this much...?”

“This is a whole day’s worth. Make sure to split it up and eat it in parts, okay?”

“Auu~.....”

Ain disappeared whilst carrying her 10 high-quality mediums protectively. Normally she was so boisterous, but today she was quiet. Maybe she was trying to conserve her energy?

Umu, maybe I should give her a little more to eat....? In either case, it is necessary to earn more money.

Suddenly, when I looked to the side, I saw a face I was acquainted with. It was the half-human, half-beast boy I met yesterday. Taking the other kids along with him, was he trying to look for scraps of food? The pots they were carrying were filled with food.

“Oh, Nii-chan isn’t that you?! Thank you for yesterday!”

“Are you searching for leftover foods? this isn’t very admirable of you”

“Heheh..... But the thing is, this place has many types of foodstuff, there’s even things people don’t sell in the shops, they always throw this kind of stuff away..... There’s even some of the things that elder sis Sill wanted”

“She wanted some of these things?”

“Dahaha..... This is a secret from elder sister Sill though!”

Saying this he pulled some kind of meat from his pot and gave it to me.

“Are you trying to silence me with this?”

“Something like that! I don’t really know what kind of meat that is but, it’s really delicious!”

“Umu...”

Although I felt a little uneasy, it had a good smell so I tried tasting it. It had a texture like chicken but also like a fish, well in either case, it tastes good.

“I’m not too sure what type of meat this is... But I can say that it does taste delicious, thanks”

“Make sure that this is a secret between us okay!”

“Once I’ve made a promise I always keep it. I won’t tell anyone about this”

Behind the boy who was looking relieved, there was this rustling sound.

When the boy turned around, Shirushu was standing there shaking her grasped fist.

“R~u~i!?”

“Elder sis.... Sill....?”

When the boy was just about to escape Shirushu who was shaking her fists in anger, I caught the scruff of his neck. Rui looked at me with pleading eyes, and I gave a chuckle in return.

“I didn’t say anything...”

“Ni-Niichan you meanie....”

Lifting him up and handing him over to Shirushu, he was struggling to get free but to no avail, I gave him a wicked smile.

CHAPTER 100

GUIDE

— The Church at the edge of town.

In the chapel, Shirushu was having a prayer session with the children, I was leaning against the wall and looking at them from behind. Shirushu was praying earnestly, but, there were many amongst the children who were yawning, and it was evident that they were bored. There was also the half-beast boy Rui and he was completely passed out. He was just being scolded quite harshly a few moments ago, but now he's already sleep, how should I put this, he's quite strong, mentally at least.

Today, Shirushu, is going to be guiding us around town, that's why I just decided to wait here. When I told Claude about it via telepathic communication, she said that she'll depart as soon as preparations are done. I suppose within an hour they will be able to arrive here? Milly is probably still asleep so it might take a little more time.

But if Milly was to be in such a quiet space, she would probably fall back asleep. Thinking about these types of useless things, Shirushu seems to have finished her prayers so she stood up and walked towards me.

“I’m sorry to have kept you waiting.”

“I don’t really mind it, after all I have free time to spare.”

The children quickly ran outside going ahead of Shirushu. As expected they were having much more fun outside, it seems they’ve become much more energetic.

“By the way, how come I don’t see any adults around here?”

“In the past we have a reverend father, due to sickness he....”

“.....I see”

“Since I was a child, the reverend picked me up and raised me. Although, it’s not purely to repay his favor, I also wanted to look after the children..... But I can’t really do it that well”

Saying that, she breathes a big sigh. It's true that they seem quite troublesome. Because I had free time until Milly came, I was just absentmindedly looking at the children play around and that's when this one child suddenly fell over and began to cry. Although Rui is also there he just stood right in front of the fallen child, but he didn't try to give a helping hand. Rui just stood in front of that child but he was just watching attentively.

"That's not good....!"

Shirushu started running and immediately tried to sit in front of the crying child, but, Rui stood in front of her not allowing her to approach.

"Elder sis Sill, stop. This isn't that big of a deal so don't worry~"

"But he's so pitiful...."

"Even so, you can't just pamper him, otherwise it won't be good for him later you know?"

"He's still just a small child! Mou! Rui you just stand over there!"

Shirushu gets angry and Rui looks hurt as he turned his face to the side.

"Fine I'll go! Oi everyone, let's go over there and play"

So he brought the other children and went to the other side..... Umu, they seem to be a lot of trouble.

"Nn mou.... Rui....."

Shirushu's cheeks were puffed up, and I saw her taking some sort of leaf from a nearby plant that grew in the vicinity. Is that a medical herb used for a salve? When I looked around, I realized that they grew here and there. Was the Church growing these plants? Shirushu holds that leaf in her mouth, and clasping her hands in front of her chest, she shut her eyes and seemingly prayed. When she did this, magic began to gather in the leaf in her mouth.

"Elixir....!"

Along with those words, she placed the shining leaf on the young boy's wounds, and

in an instant the wounds on his feet healed. Shirushu had a bit of sweat flowing down her forehead as she smiled gently at the child who had stopped crying.

(.....Is that her own inherent magical spell?)

Having my own doubts, I cast Scout Scope on Shirushu.

Shirushu Onslaught

Level 2

[Red] Magical Value: 0 Threshold Limit: 21

[Blue] Magical Value: 3 Threshold Limit: 42

[Green] Magical Value: 2 Threshold Limit: 51

[Sky] Magical Value: 0 Threshold Limit: 12

[Soul] Magical Value: 2 Threshold Limit: 39

Magical Power Level: 6/52

And the magic she possessed, Elixir. As expected it was an inherent magical ability. Other than this, Shirushu didn't have any other magic. However, if she did train, she would probably be able to excel in Blue, Green and Soul magic. I went near Shirushu in order to ask her in more detail.

“What was that just now?”

“Ummm..... From what the reverend told me, it seems that I have some sort of inherent magic. I've been able to use it from as far as I can remember, so I don't really understand it that well either....”

This ability of hers was probably born due to both her living environment and her own temperament, although this kind of thing is really rare, but I suppose that's what must have happened to Shirushu.

“But that kind of wound, didn't really need recovery magic to be casted on it, right? Just like Rui said, aren't you being a little overprotective? Even if you just put some spit on it, that would have healed you know?”

“Well~..... But, after all, I felt so sorry for the child....”

“In my opinion, being kind and spoiling someone, is a different thing”

“Uuu.....”

When I gave Shirushu my advice, Rui was grinning from a distance.

"Onii-chan, you've said something really good there! I told you so! Shirushu, you are spoiling him too much"

"You stay out of this, just go play over there!"

"Yeah, yeah"

Saying that the boy started to play with the children again. After talking for a little while longer with Shirushu, Milly and the others arrived at the church.

"Alright everyone, I'm going to be showing Zeph-san and the others around town so please take care of the house okay?"

"Yes~!"

"Then shall we go everyone?"

Following her lead, we went out of the church, and after walking for a little while, there was a bunch of old private houses lined up. Is this perhaps the slums? the appearance of the people around here also looks quite poor. Shirushu bows to each and everyone one of them and greets them. Responding to her greeting, these people bowed politely in return. It seems that she has the trust of the people in this part of town.

When we got out of the slums, we arrived at the downtown area we were eating in yesterday, she started to stand in front of the various shops and began to give a detailed explanation of each store. Basically her explanations consisted of 'Someone told me this and that about this store'. But she didn't seem to have any personal experience with the stores herself.

Before coming out of the downtown area, we got a little hungry so we decided to have a late lunch. As usual Shirushu was being reluctant and holding herself back, but when I shoved the chef's recommended dish into her mouth by force, her face instantly melted and she made short work of the food. Is this perhaps a case of 'even though her mouth says no, her body is honest?'

When our meal finished, we climbed over this big slope and there was plenty of large buildings around us. Many new and stylish houses were here. Is this perhaps where the rich people live in? There is a big park inside of their private houses, and I could

see children playing inside. Many of the children were wearing beautiful clothes, there were even some beast children in the mix. Depending on the town there was usually some form of tension in regards to beast people, but it seems that in Port Izu this tension did not exist. Perhaps the town mayor was a talented person?

“This place seems really good.”

“Yes.”

Everyone stops walking and we saw this middle aged man walk into the park. He had neat and beautiful clothes and a moustache on his face. He dressed precisely like a nobleman would.

“Hello, Shirushu-san”

“I’ve been in your care, Davil-san”

The man called Davil seemed to be Shirushu’s acquaintance and he was walking slowly towards us. Shirushu was bowing politely to the man who was walking towards us with a smile. He seemed to have noticed us so we also gave him a slight bow.

“Are these perhaps your friends? I’m very pleased to make your acquaintance. I am the Mayor of Port Izu, my name is Davil Kilhail”

“Davil-san is the person who aids our church by giving us money.”

“Shirushu-dono is a very kind person who is taking care of all the beast children that have been outcast, this is the least I can do to cooperate.”

Davil was smiling gently and the children from behind him comes running and clings to him.

“Papa!”

“There we go,ahaha”

Holding the child in his arms, he gave the child a piggyback ride and Shirushu was watching on with a warm smile. But as if he remembered we were still here, he showed a flustered expression.

“I’m sorry, Davil-san. I’m going to be showing these people around so....”

“Ahh, I don’t mind it. We can always talk next time”

Parting from Davil, we were brought along to the residential area.

“I’m sorry I ended up talking for quite a long time....”

“That’s alright, don’t worry, besides we have plenty of free time~”

“That seems kind of nice. That kind of scene from before...”

After saying this, Claude pulls on my sleeve.

“You think so? I thought Shirushu looked like his lover or something. Is that the kind of man you like? Claude?”

“..... Zeph-kun you baka”

I was teasing Claude, and suddenly Shirushu who started to walk awkwardly and her shoulders were shaking. Crap, did she overhear what I just said? After that, we walked a little more before we reached a Weapon and Protective gear shop lined across the road. Thankfully, by this time, Shirushu’s mood had already recovered.

“This is our last stop, after this everyone will surely be fine by themselves”

She was floating this really scary black smile. It would seem that she was still angry at my previous comment...

“....Fufu, it’s a joke”¹

Milly was shoving at my sides and Shirushu poked her tongue out.

“However, in saying that I don’t think we have time to visit every place, so I have a shop I would like to recommend”

Shirushu went deeper into the interior of the shopping district, and we also followed behind her. In the corner of this narrow shopping street, there was this elderly person who wore glasses and was looking after this old and worn-out store. Shirushu stopped in front of this store.

"It's quite a small store, but there are plenty of rare and unusual things here. it kind of tries to rip you off a little though"

"As if I rip people off! It's a reasonable and fair price jya"

Shirushu was talking to me in a whisper, but the elderly person beat her butt with his cane.²

"Ouch! it's hurts you know! Please stop!"

".....Humph"

The elderly person stops beating Shirushu and turns towards our direction.

"For the time being let's take a look"

"Y-yeah, I suppose so...."

When I went inside and checked out the goods, it was definitely overpriced..... and it wasn't just a little bit, but this was pretty much ripping people off. However, if I were to just talk about the assortment of goods, they were of superb quality. Various kinds of rare boss items were lined up.

Uohh! A Snake Bone Ring costs 500,000 Rupi?!I wonder if I can sell mine? I probably won't be using it anymore.

"Zeph, are you going to sell it? Even though it's.... you know...."

Milly was fiddling with her finger as she spoke. The ring on my fourth finger, was the gift that Milly gave me in the past as a present.

"Ah.... Well umm...."

"If you want to sell it, I'll buy it off you for 30,000 rupi jya"

"That's way too cheap!!"

Both Milly and I synchronized in retorting to this geezer, and Lydia seems to have found something that caught her eye so she was rustling around the shelf reaching for something in the interior. What she pulled out was this rusty dust covered silver disk,

is that perhaps a shield?

"Clau-chan, what do you think of this.....?"

"Ah.....!"

Lydia was patted the dust off and handed the shield to Claude. Claude saw the shield and her eyes were staring in wonder. This was the shield that she got from her mother when she got chased out of her house; the one that was supposed to be destroyed in her fight against Grain. Or at least, it looked exactly the same.

Claude looks at the shield with a deep emotion and afterwards, she looked towards me.. I know you want it... Now that you mention it, I did promise her to buy a replacement for the shield that she lost.

"Is that the round shield? That particular shield costs 1 million Rupi jyana"

".....Tsk, that's so expensive"

"I-It's fine Zeph-kun, you don't have to do this for me....."

Claude was calming me down, but she also looked kind of happy. The shield she got from her mother in the past cost this much, so I bet that she felt pretty good. However, this is really expensive. If I buy this, I will be pretty much broke, however...

"Geezer, I'll buy it"

"Zeph-kun!?"

Claude was bewildered and I placed my hand on her head.

"I haven't seen this type of shield around much before, so I think it's probably a rare item. If it ever got sold, you may never be able to find one like this again..... Besides, isn't this something that has sentimental value to you?"

"Zeph-kun I....."

"In that case, come on, hurry up and pay the 1 million rupi"

This old geezer couldn't read the atmosphere, I paid him the 1 million rupi and left the

store. Being this broke, I'm going to have to earn some more money in order to provide Ain a consistent meal. After leaving the store, Claude embraces the shield I bought for her and was smiling happily.

“Ehehe, Thank you so much Zeph-kun”

“Ahh, I'm kind of envious of you, Claude”

“Milly-san, didn't you make him buy you something for the punishment game? What happened during that time?”

“Uhh.....!”

At Claude's question, Milly's face instantly turns red.

“T-That is... umm, yes,ahaha”

“?”

Milly was being incoherent as she tried to dodge the question, and Claude was looking at her in marvel.

CHAPTER 101

RETURN IT TENFOLD

After that we looked around the other shops for a while and we purchased an armor to replace Claude's broken gear. Similar to the last time she went shopping, she bought a plate armor that covered her entire chest.

The Knight Card I previously bought and kept in reserve was assigned to her new armor and Lydia was the one who helped attached the card to the armor.

Claude's breasts were being pushed down by the armor and when I was looking at how the shape was being tightly compressed in that tight space, Milly stood behind me and pinched my back.

Ouch, ouch that hurts...

"But you know~ Clau-chan if you're wearing that kind of boorish armor again, won't you be mistaken for a boy again?"

"Umm..... But if I wore equipment that made it harder for me to fight in, I would slow everyone down and I don't want that..... Even at the best of times, I'm already the weakest out of us so..."

Ahaha, Claude laughs to herself and Milly flares up with emotion.

"That's totally not true! Claude! Everyone here always relies on you!"

"Milly-san..... Thank you very much."

"That's true, besides, Don't you guys think that Milly's actually weaker than Claude?"

"Zeph....."

Milly's eyebrows frowned and she was glaring at me. When I tried to avoid meeting her eyes, I could see that Shirushu was looking at our group with a gentle gaze.

"Everyone gets along so well with each other, don't they?"

"Well, I would say it's not too bad."

"Fufufu."

Muu, she laughs as if she's seen through us.... By the time we exited the shopping district and headed towards our inn, the sun had already begun to set.

After escorting Shirushu back to her own church, we headed off to the inn.

It wasn't possible for us to go hunting today either, so right before dinner, I found a vacant area behind the inn and had we had a sparring session with Lydia.

With Lydia as our instructor: Me, Claude and Milly took turns to participate.

First we started by throwing light punches towards her, and finally she would always end by avoiding the blow and approaching us from behind to hug us tightly, then she would move to the next person.

Why did she need to do such a thing? Only Lydia knew the answer to that question.

For Lydia, it didn't really matter who her opponent was, she easily bested us and it didn't seem like it was hard for her to do so.

Repeating this many times, we started to become really sweaty, but Lydia didn't even seem tired.

Hmm, even though I wasn't using any reinforcement magic, for there to be this much difference between us.....

"Alright, then Zeph-chi will be partnered up with Clau-chan, I will be Milly-chan's partner, okay?"

"Eh~?! But why am I paired with Lydia~?"

"Mnn~ Well that's because I thought that Milly might find it hard if she was paired with the other two and besides I can go easy on you.... and also do plenty of other things♪"

"Hiii....." 1

Lydia was grinning as she smiled and in response Milly trembled upon hearing her words.

Unlike before she completely changed her stance and was taking a really serious posture. Don't tell me, Lydia was aiming for this moment....? That can't be true can it?

While I was watching Lydia who had the really eerie smile on her face, Claude approaches me from behind and tugs at my sleeves.

"Shall we also get started?"

"I guess so, but just wait a moment."

"?"

Claude was waiting for me whilst a little confused, I picked up two wooden sticks from the ground and I threw one over to Claude.

"The truth is that I kind of want to learn how to wield a sword. Would you mind teaching me?"

"Ohh! Yes! Of course I don't mind it!"

Normally she doesn't have a chance to teach anyone else, so it seems like she became really excited.

Claude proudly beats the armor that we just bought for her.

She comes running towards me and stands next to my side, she then holds up her wooden stick to her own eye level.

Claude's posture seemed to be very poised like an expert and it seemed like she's trained for a long time so I couldn't spot any weaknesses in her stance.

"Teyaah!"

The sword was swung down at the same time she released her breath.

A sharp slashing sound of the wooden sword cutting the wind resounded and it was enough to make my hair shake.

I looked at her repeating this several more times, but then it seemed that she got a little tired as she took a deep breath and wiped the sweat from her forehead.

“—Fuuu、 Alright then Zeph-kun, please try to do it as well.”

“I understand.”

Although I tried to mimic Claude’s movements repeating the slash several times, even I could tell that my movements were sloppy. The sound of the wind being cut is completely different from when she does it.

As expected, this is quite difficult.

“Well..... It’s a little off....”

“I’ve never trained with a sword before so...”

Holding her hand against her own chin, Claude scrutinized my form by watching from several different angles.

.....Somehow this feels embarrassing.

“From what I can see, your grip is loose. If you hold it like that it will slip out too easily. I think that’s why the strength of the swing feels awkward.”

“Should I hold it like this?”

“No.... Separate the hands from each other a little more.... No not like that....”

She was trying to explain it in her own words, but seeing as she wasn’t getting her message across, she became impatient and so she stood behind me and grabbed the wooden stick from behind me, placing her hands on top of mine.

Her thins fingers were wrapped around mine, and she was guiding me slowly.

“..... Like this.”

Claude lets her face lean on my shoulders and I could feel her breath against my ear. Milly who was distracted by us, showed an opening to Lydia and she was immediately embraced by Lydia from behind.

“Milly-chan, even if you’re jealous you shouldn’t lose focus you know~?”

“Wha..... I-I’m not really jealous.... Eh, please don’t nibble on my ears!”

“Mnn... Puha..... Then can you do this seriously?”

“I will! I will, so please stop blowing into my ears!”

Passing our time in this manner, both Claude and I, and Milly and Lydia continued with training until it got dark.

The way that Claude taught me was both thorough and logical, it was extremely easy to understand.

When I asked her about it, she told me that she used to train in the sword since she was a child.

I guess it’s something you would expect, considering she was brought up in a Knight’s family.



Eating dinner at the inn, and at the moment I got out of the bath and entered my room, a soft feeling wraps around both my arms.

When I look to the left and the right, both Claude and Lydia were clinging to my arms.

Both of them carried me to the bed and pushed me head first, down on to the bed.

When I looked up, both Claude and Lydia were smiling.

“.....What on earth is going on?”

“Well~ Normally Zeph-chi is the one doing whatever he wants to us, therefore, sometimes us girls also want to be in control~”

“Milly-san seems to want to return the favor for yesterday.”

“What do you mean by return the favor, uwah!?”

I couldn't finish my sentence as I got the feeling of something landing on top of my back. The one squirming around on my back is.... probably Milly?

“Milly..... What are you trying to do?”

“Nihiihi♪ Even if I look like this, I'm actually really good at giving massages.”

“Wha....Ah!?”

Saying that Milly takes off my garments, and she started to touch me across my back with her small hands.

Her cool hands were pushing against my back and it felt like she was caressing me, so I let out this strange voice.

T-That really tickles! Oi?!

Perhaps she found my reaction interesting for having being tickled? But her body that was on my back was swaying enthusiastically.

Milly's butt was moving across my back and it became even more ticklish.

Darn itt, I'll make sure to repay you tenfold for this laterr.....

Feeling Milly getting off my back, I got up slowly and pushed Milly down on to the bed from behind her.

“Okay, that's enough for today~ Eh!?”

“.....Wait a second Milly. Now it's my turn isn't it?”

“Noo.... I don't really need....”

She was twisting her body and trying to run away from me, but I wasn't going to let her get away. leaning on her back slightly I held her firmly in place with my feet.

Milly's face seemed to be afraid as my hands got closer to her back, and then I opened up her Magical Power Line.

"I'm telling you I'm fine, Eh, bahahahaahaha Ahhyiii~!?"

"Kuku, you don't need to hold yourself back. Hey come on, stop trying to escape, Milly."

I opened her Magical Power line and tickled her, so Milly soon becomes unable to breathe and she goes into convulsions and faints.

Confirming that she was passed out, I turned my gaze towards both Claude and Lydia.

".....Now then, who wants to go next for today?"

"N-No~ I've got something to do..... Clau-chan you can go first?"

"Lydia-san was the one who said we should go with this plan, wasn't she! Please take responsibility~"

"I don't really mind doing both of you at the same time you know?"

Saying that I pushed both the girls down on to the bed, and chanted out Time Square.

In the time suspension, I cast Green Wall twice and after releasing the time stop I was smiling.

"Green Wall Double."

The bed that the two girls got on were being wrapped around by a large amount of vines, entangling both of their bodies to the bed.

"Wait..... I-It's cheating if you use magicc.....!?"

"Mnn~! Uhnn~!?"

The two of them desperately tried to break free but the more they struggled, the tighter the ivy vines would wrap around their bodies. Soon enough the two girls were unable to even move a muscle.

They tried to speak but soon the vines enter their mouths and even started to twine

around their tongues, it seems they could no longer speak...

Their soft bodies wearing night gowns were being wrapped by the magical vines very tightly.

“~Uu! Mmph~!”

When a wall type magic is casted twice simultaneously, it increases the durability of the magic but reduces the effective time and range of the spell. It was normally a spell that already consumed a large amount of magical energy so the spell had limited usage.

However, the effect rises to quite a big extent and normally this spell was only enough to slightly hinder a monsters movements, but right now this Green Wall Double was completely restricting the movement of the girls.

“The effective time of this spell will be quite short, so although it’s bad of me to do this, allow me to get a little rough.”

“~~~~~Uhn!?”

The voice of two people crying, resounds within the inn. I started to release all of their Magical Power Lines to open it up to the fullest.

Normally I would slowly open their Magical lines and go easy on them, but today I went full power.

The Green Wall spell exceeded its time limit very quickly, but by that time, the two girls were already so exhausted they couldn’t let out their voices, the best they could do was breathe out wildly.

“I...I can’t take anymore....”

“P-Please forgive me....Zeph-chi...”

The two girls were petitioning me with watery eyes, and instead of replying, I gave them a grin.

Perhaps they understood my intentions, but the two girls let out a small scream and they both looked like small cute animals who were frightened.

In the end, I continued to fiddle and strengthen their Magical Power Line until they fainted. When it all finished, they were pretty much almost completely naked as the three lay face down on the bed sleeping as if they were dead.

.....Maybe I went a little too far?



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